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Thursday, October 25, 2012

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WEDDING CRASHER

Prime Minister Stephen Harper greets newlyweds Pat and Jocelyne Sullivan in a surprise encounter near the Rockcliffe Parkway during a photo shoot. For more on the newlyweds' brush with the P.M., see page 3. CONTRIBUTED/LAURA KELLY

Budget calls for 2.09% tax hike

Draft. Council mulls \$2.5-billion budget with lowest annual tax increase in six years



Mayor Jim Watson delivered his promised stay-the-course-style budget yesterday, with no big-ticket expenditures and the lowest tax increase in six years. The 2013 draft budget features a 2.09 per cent property-tax increase for urban residents, a 1.98 per cent increase for rural property owners, and a 2.5 per cent hike for commercial rates. Based on an average home assessment of \$314,500, urban homeowners can expect to pay \$3,283 a year, while rural homeowners should see an annual bill of \$2,598. That's an increase of \$67 and \$50, respectively, over 2012 levels. "This budget, I believe, is a document that keeps us moving forward with real progress

for the people of Ottawa," Watson said in a budget address Wednesday morning. The draft budget includes modest investments in things like asset management and renewal (\$5.5 million), new cycling infrastructure (\$2.5 million), and additional social-service funding to partially offset provincial reductions (\$4.4 million). It also brings in an additional \$29.2 million in revenue to city coffers, including increased user fees (\$2.2 million), transit fares (\$4.2 million), and assessment growth (\$24.7 million). It also cuts 139 full-time equivalent positions (FTEs) — although most of those are positions in name only. The majority were accounting errors still on the books — FTEs without actual compensation. The 40 or so actual positions being cut through attrition will save the city \$3.5 million. Council will hold a series of public consultations on the draft budget in the coming weeks. Councillors will be asked to vote on it at a meeting scheduled for Nov. 28.

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Fatal collision

Man dead after car hits tree

A man in his late 40s died Wednesday after the car he was driving hit a tree in the Carlington area, police said.

Paramedics responded to the intersection of Cavan Street and Raven Avenue just after 4 p.m. but couldn't get to the man because his car was so badly damaged. It wasn't until firefighters cut the car open that they could assess the victim, paramedics said. The man was declared dead at the scene. Police closed Cavan Street between Raven Avenue and Larose Street as officers investigate the collision. **JOE LOFARO/METRO**

Hazardous material

RCMP clandestine lab unit probes area near Barrhaven

The RCMP are remaining tight-lipped about a hazardous material investigation Wednesday near Barrhaven.

RCMP spokeswoman Const. Lucy Shorey told CBC News a car was involved, but wouldn't disclose why it was pulled over. The investigation led the RCMP's clandestine laboratory unit to an area near Brophy Drive and the 416. The unit is responsible for investigating the production of drugs such as methamphetamine and ecstasy. **JOE LOFARO/METRO**

15 charges

Accused molester held in custody

A former Sunday school teacher charged with several sexual-assault-related offences was remanded into custody Wednesday pending a judicial pre-trial, according to his lawyer. Paul Laframboise, 73, of Ottawa faces a total of 15 charges and police said Tuesday he could face more.

JOE LOFARO/METRO



Prime Minister Stephen Harper poses with Pat and Jocelyne Sullivan and the rest of their bridal party on Saturday. CONTRIBUTED BY LAURA KELLY

PM Harper crashes Ottawa wedding

Wedding snapshots. 'I used the same care as I would have to take a photo of a first kiss at the church,' photographer says

It must have been one of Stephen Harper's most unscripted moments.

And it was certainly a surprise for the bride.

On Saturday, Canada's prime minister and his security detail stepped out of a trio of cars and mingled with a wedding party as they were taking photos off scenic Rockcliffe Parkway in Ottawa.

"It was kind of nice," said wedding photographer Laura Kelly, who said Harper took the time to ask everyone in the party their name before shaking their hand.

The slightly sweaty PM, dressed in a blue windbreaker, even posed for photos.

One shows him in the middle of the wedding party with bride Jocelyne Potvin and groom Patrick Sullivan, both 23, on either side.

Kelly says she thought, "You've got one chance at this," as Harper's security guards watched her take photos from either side.

"I used the same care as I would have to take a photo of a first kiss at the church."

The drama began Saturday after Potvin and Sullivan

were married at 1 p.m.

Kelly says the couple, together with seven bridesmaids and an equal number of groomsmen, had pulled into a parking lot off Rockcliffe Parkway, which runs along the Ottawa River.

Three dark-coloured cars were already in the lot.

Kelly says she was taking photos when the cars started to move and Harper rolled down his window to say congratulations to the bride.

But just as the PM and his security detail were about to pull out of the parking lot back onto the parkway, they stopped and everyone got out.

Afterwards, the PM and his security detail drove away. **TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE**

Unbelieving bride

Kelly said that between the photo shoot and reception she put together a slide show of 20 to 40 photos in a digital frame that played on the cake table.

- "The whole night guests were coming up and asking how come the prime minister was in the photos," said Kelly. They asked, "Do you have the PM at all your weddings?"

- Kelly says the couple was "really excited." One photo shows an unbelieving bride pointing at Harper.



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1 NEWS

City plans to protect vulnerable

Downloading. Draft budget pledges \$4.4M against provincial cuts to social services



STEVE COLLINS
ottawa@metronews.ca

Provincial-government cuts to shared social-service programs are casting "a dark cloud" over Ottawa's poorest residents, Mayor Jim Watson said at Wednesday's draft budget meeting, and so the city plans to put up a \$4.4-million umbrella.

This year's Ontario budget capped funding to some Ontario Works and ODSP benefits. As of Jan. 1, the provincial government will eliminate the Community Start Up and Maintenance Benefit, which helped vulnerable people find and keep housing.

"I'm not happy about it," Watson said of the cuts. "I've raised this with a number of ministers and MPPs and told them I'll continue to push to get them to reinstate this money."

The city's draft budget maintains last year's \$3.7 million for the programs, and adds \$4.4 million to make up for some of the shortfall from the province,



Mayor Jim Watson addresses council as he tables the draft 2013 budget on Wednesday.

SEAN MCKIBBON/METRO

including a \$250,000 emergency fund for the most extreme cases. The money would be redirected from existing city spending.

That still leaves a \$2.2-million hole in the funding for these programs compared with 2012 — a 12.6 per cent reduction.

"We're disappointed that this funding that is affecting the most vulnerable people is going to be brought down to the city level," Watson said. "But I can tell you that I'm proud of the fact that we've stepped up and tried our best to fill about \$4.4 million of that void."



City councillors and onlookers in the gallery stand for the singing of the national anthem on Wednesday ahead of budget deliberations. SEAN MCKIBBON/METRO



Ottawa Police Chief Charles Bordeleau listens on Wednesday as Mayor Jim Watson tables the draft 2013 budget for the city. SEAN MCKIBBON/METRO

Arbitrated wages still an unknown in police budget

An arbitrated wage settlement with the Ottawa Police Service's two unions remains a big question mark on the force's projected bottom line.

Chief Charles Bordeleau appeared before city hall's board of police commissioners early Wednesday morning to request a 2.5 per cent police tax rate increase.

The increase would bring in an additional \$5.5 million for the OPS — a cost of approximately \$13 per year

to the average homeowner. When added to the growth in property assessments, that equals an incremental operating budget increase of \$9.5 million over 2012.

But Bordeleau acknowledged that an arbitrator's decision on wages for the Ottawa Police Association and the Senior Officer's Association, expected in December, could have a big impact on the force's projections.

"It's a pressure that we

face as a police service," Bordeleau told reporters outside the meeting.

"Our compensation represents 83 per cent of our budget, it is a significant part of our budget. I'm not going to speculate on what the arbitrator is going to come back with. When it comes back, that is something that I'm going to have to deal with."

The wage issue has been ongoing since 2011, and once

the matter is resolved, it will be paid out retroactively. The force has been projecting the higher wage in their budget since 2011, but it's still a "black box" within the budget.

The proposed 2013 OPS operating budget comes in at \$256.3 million, with a capital budget of \$12.7 million. OPS is projecting a 2.5 per cent increase in police taxes each year until 2016.

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Transit

Re-optimizing bus network?

OC Transpo is promising riders a comparatively smooth trip in 2013, with a draft budget and average fare increases capped at 2.5 per cent, no reductions to service, and even some possible relief for those who took the worst hits in last year's route cuts.

The transit service's general manager, John Manconi, told transit commissioners that five routes will be added in December as pilot projects, aimed at improving service for four specific groups of transit users. "We're looking at health care access, access to employment areas for people with limited transit options, seniors' mobility and youth access," Manconi said. A city study, he added, suggests these four areas of the ridership were among those disproportionately affected by the 2011 network optimization.

If the new services perform well in the first quarter of 2013, they could become permanent additions, but those look-

A look at the numbers

OC Transpo 2013 vital statistics:

- Projected ridership: 102.4 million, based on Aug 2011 to July 2012 numbers
- Projected fare revenue: \$175.9 million based on projected ridership, fare increase
- Staff reduction: 166 full-time equivalents (-5.2 per cent) from attrition and vacancies

ing to simply have old routes restored will likely be disappointed.

"It's not about routes," Manconi said. "It's about the groups that have been identified in the study."

Thanks to the route cuts and the rollout of 75 double decker buses, which is to save \$8.9 million by the time it's completed in April, savings are adding up, said transit commission chair Diane Deans.

"OC Transpo over a two-year period from September 2011 to 2013 will realize net savings of \$23.4 million," she said.

STEVE COLLINS/METRO

Officials wait on ByWard Market report



The ByWard Market
GRAHAM LANKTREE/METRO

A report on how to revitalize the ByWard Market drafted by a U.S. consulting firm that helped rethink Times Square is being eagerly awaited by the area's business owners, said Coun. Mathieu Fleury, Tuesday.

A meeting organized by the Project for Public Spaces was packed with 100 members of the market's business community Tuesday evening, he said.

"We don't know what they're writing yet. We have a general idea," he said, noting

the report would be released before year end. "It was a very positive and honest discussion last night."

Defined gateways and sidewalks, better lighting and public washrooms were all ideas floated by both sides during the discussion, Fleury said. "That's not clear in the ByWard Market now. We need something that defines the area."

The consulting firm was called in this September to look at how a proliferation of farmers' markets and influx

of restaurants are challenging the ByWard Market's future, said Jasna Jennings, executive director of the ByWard Market Business Improvement Area.

"There are many factors that have come into play. There's a proliferation of farmers' markets. We used to be pretty much the only game in town," she said. "We're also seeing an issue where retailers are on a sliding slope. We're seeing an over-concentration of restaurants in the area." GRAHAM LANKTREE/METRO

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Again! Comments on rape trip up one more Republican

Women shocked.

A victim's pregnancy is 'something God intended,' says Indiana candidate

Another Republican running for the U.S. Senate has sparked outrage with comments about rape.

Richard Mourdock told a live television audience that when a woman becomes pregnant during a rape, it's "something God intended."

Murdock, an Indiana Senate candidate, was asked during a debate Tuesday whether abortion should be allowed in cases of rape or incest.

"I struggled with it myself for a long time, but I came to realize that life is that gift from God," Mourdock said.

"And, I think, even when life begins in that horrible situation of rape, that it is



Republican Richard Mourdock's comments on rape have angered women. SCOTT OLSON/GETTY IMAGES

something that God intended to happen."

Murdock explained after the debate that he did not believe God intended rape but that God is the only one who can create life.

"Are you trying to suggest somehow that God preordained rape? No, I don't think that," Mourdock said.

"Anyone who would suggest that is just sick and twisted. No, that's not even close to what I said."

Murdock has consistently opposed abortion, with the exception of cases where the mother's life is in danger.

Murdock on Wednesday stood by his statement.

Women voters are key to this year's presidential race, and Republican challenger Mitt Romney has been drawn into this latest issue.

Romney campaign spokesperson Andrea Saul said Romney disagrees with Mourdock's opposition to abortion in cases of rape and incest, but she said Romney still supports Mourdock's Senate bid.

In August, Missouri Senate candidate Todd Akin caused an uproar when he said women's bodies have ways of preventing pregnancy in cases of what he called "legitimate rape."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Mystery. Is human head linked to body in ditch?



Teenagers walk past the spot where a human head was found in Edmonton. JASON FRANSON/THE CANADIAN PRESS

A human head was found Wednesday in an Edmonton alley.

Police are trying to find out if it belongs to a body found in a rural area east of the city on the weekend.

A source said a woman discovered the head.

Jesse Whitnack, a 30-year-old computer tech who lives in an apartment at the end of the alley, watched police from his balcony and zoomed in with his camera.

He said the head was on the ground. He could see hair, but he couldn't tell if it belonged to a man or a woman.

Police took the head away

in a brown paper bag, Whitnack said.

RCMP are working with city police to determine whether the head is linked to remains found in a ditch near Ranfurly, about 120 kilometres east of Edmonton.

The Mounties have said little about that case, other than that a body was found on Saturday evening. An autopsy was performed Monday.

Local media have quoted area residents who said they had heard that the body had been decapitated and was found lying in a ditch next to a running pickup truck.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

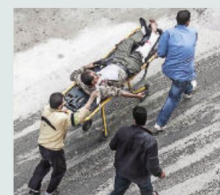
Pessimism in Syria

UN backs it, but weekend truce plan appears doomed to fail

The United Nations Security Council gave unanimous backing Wednesday to a four-day truce proposed by the international mediator for Syria.

Lakhdar Brahimi, the UN-Arab League envoy, told the council the Syrian regime and some rebel groups promised to lay down their arms during the Muslim holiday of Eid al-Adha, which begins Friday.

But President Bashar Assad's regime denied Wednesday it had committed to the plan.



A man injured by an artillery shell in Aleppo, Syria, is rushed to hospital. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Woman becomes Bosnia's first hijab-wearing mayor

And a first for Europe?

Economist and single mother of three from the town of Visoko declares: 'I am the East and I am the West'

When Amra Babic walks down the streets of the central Bosnian town of Visoko wearing her Muslim headscarf, men sitting in outdoor cafés instantly rise from their chairs, fix their clothes and put out their cigarettes.

The respect is only natural: Babic is their new mayor.

The 43-year-old economist has blazed a trail in this war-scarred Balkan nation by becoming its first hijab-wearing mayor, and possibly the only one in Europe.

For Babic, the electoral triumph is proof that observance of Muslim tradition is compatible with Western democratic values. The wartime widow sees no contradiction in the influences that define her life.

"I am proud to be a Muslim and to be a European," she declares.

She wants to fix the infra-



Amra Babic, mayor of the Bosnian town of Visoko, in front of her election poster. The 43-year-old economist has blazed a trail in this war-scarred Balkan nation by becoming its first hijab-wearing mayor, and possibly the only one in Europe. AMEL EMRIC/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

structure, partly ruined by the Bosnian 1992-95 war and partly by post-war poverty. And she plans to make Visoko attractive for investment, encouraging youth to start small businesses. It's all part of her strategy to fight the town's unemployment rate of over 25 per cent.

"We are proud to have elected her," says Muris Karavdic, 38, a local small business owner. "It

doesn't matter whether she covers her head or not. She is smart and knows finances."

Babic decided to wear her headscarf after her husband was killed fighting in the Bosnian Army, and views it as "a human right." She says religion and hard work helped her overcome his death, raise their three boys alone and pursue a career.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Party in flux: Can the Liberal centre hold?

The days are numbered for most Liberal party leaders in Canada, with elections looming across the country. At this time of change, Metro asked: Are Liberal parties dying or renewing? Who is going to determine their future?



JESSICA SMITH
jessica.smith@metronews.ca

Stephen Taylor, National Citizens Coalition, Conservative

"I don't know if I want to be the one to predict the death of an institution that's had electoral success in 80 of the past 100 years, but I will say we are seeing a federal Liberal party and six provincial Liberal parties that are going through electing a leader right now. That doesn't happen, generally, with successful parties.

"There's an interesting thesis by (NDP strategist) Jamey Heath. He said that in Western democracies these centrist parties who don't really stand for bold issues, either on the left or the right, and just occupy the centre and rule as administrators, have given way to parties on the left and on the right.

"Canadians and citizens worldwide are more con-

nected to the daily grind and the daily debate of what's happening in their respective legislatures, via 24-hour news, via social media, through the Internet.... It's a market that emphasizes and enables the politicians that are actually selling ideas, rather than just administration, just keeping the lights on."

Sheila Copps, former deputy prime minister, Liberal

"I find the spate of stories recently about the death of the Liberal party ironic, because when the Conservative party was reduced to two members it was never, ever assumed that they were in the graveyard. So there's a cyclical rhythm to politics and a d

at the moment the Liberals are on the upswing.

"I think that their political enemies would like to see them die. The (federal) Liberals in the last election were reduced to third-party status and Stephen Harper uses every opportunity to go after the Liberals because he sees them as a long-term enemy."

Ian Capstick, NDP strategist, owner of Media Style

"Overall, Liberals have a grave problem in their own inability to define themselves from

coast to coast to coast. I don't think it's going to happen from the provinces up. Fundamentally, over the course of Liberal history, it has always been the federal Liberal leader who has very much been the face, the brand and the ideological force behind the party.

"(Liberals) have political parties who are down a few leaders. I don't think we've got rats jumping from a sinking ship. We're seeing that natural ebb and flow of politics."

Marc Garneau, Liberal MP

"Support for Liberal values such as free speech, tolerance, evidence-based

policymaking and a balanced approach between social justice and fiscal responsibility remains strong. As long as that is the case, Liberal parties will remain relevant."

Martha Hall-Findlay, former Liberal MP

"This is exactly how political parties renew themselves and grow. The leadership contest will encourage Liberals to come to grips with what the federal Liberal party really stands for, and why, and how to ensure that its message resonates with voters. And not everyone will agree, so expect some vigorous debate — that's what real renewal depends on."

Elizabeth May, Green party leader

"I never thought the Liberal party was a s a n y - where

near dead. I think it would be absurd, given the weight of Canadian history and the engagement of the Liberal party and Liberal party adherents across Canada.

"It's naive to think that somehow the results of the 2011 election represent any kind of new equilibrium in Canadian politics. It has been in flux and has remained in flux — meaning there is room in Canadian politics for the Green party to grow and the parties that were hurt in 2011 to rebuild."

Peter Sherman, finance critic, Ontario PCs

"The way Liberals operate is usually about demonstrating what they want the public to perceive as their own largesse in creating projects — handing out money, picking winner companies and stimulating them, as opposed to sectors (of the economy) — and saying, 'Look how much we've invested.' It's taxpayer dollars, and I think people are on to them. Liberal parties operating more for their own benefit rather than for the benefit of the people seem to be falling like flies."

Answers were edited for clarity and length.



Liberals across the country are seeking renewal. Among them are, from left, Ontario MPP Deb Matthews; MP and federal leadership candidate Justin Trudeau; MP Stéphane Dion; Alberta MLAs Raj Sherman and Laurie Blakeman; Ontario MPP Kathleen Wynne; former MP Gerard Kennedy, touted as a leadership contender for the Ontario Liberal party; and federal leadership candidate Deborah Coyne. PHOTO COLLAGE: DAVID VAN DYKE/METRO

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Waves, brought by Hurricane Sandy, crash on a house in the Caribbean Terrace neighborhood in eastern Kingston, Jamaica, on Wednesday. COLLIN REID/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Jamaica takes direct hit from Hurricane Sandy

Storm. Kingston feels the wrath of fierce storm, with Cuba and Florida put on alert

Hurricane Sandy carved into the populous southeastern coast of Jamaica on Wednesday, stranding travellers and hammering shantytowns with howling winds and rains as it roared across the island

on a track that would take it on to Cuba and possibly Florida. At least one person was killed in nearby Haiti after being swept away by a rushing river in the town of Camp Perrin.

It was the first direct hit by the eye of a hurricane on Jamaica since Hurricane Gilbert in 1988, and fearful authorities closed the island's international airports and police ordered 48-hour curfews in major towns to keep

people off the streets and deter looting. Cruise ships changed their itineraries to avoid the storm, which made landfall Wednesday afternoon roughly five miles (eight kilometres) east of the capital of Kingston.

The 18th named storm of the Atlantic hurricane season was expected to pass over eastern Cuba early Thursday, missing the U.S. naval base at Guantanamo Bay.

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L.A. bomb plot. Terrorist sentenced to 37 years

Algerian terrorist Ahmed Ressay was sentenced Wednesday to 37 years in prison for plotting to bomb Los Angeles International Airport at the turn of the new millennium.

Ressay, who had trained at al-Qaeda's training camps in Afghanistan, was arrested in December 1999 when a customs agent noticed that he appeared suspicious as he drove off a ferry from Canada onto Washington's Olympic Peninsula. A resulting search turned up a trunk full of explosives.

The Justice Department, which previously sought sentences of 35 years and of life in prison, recommended a life sentence again because of the mass murder Ressay intended to inflict. In those pre-

A vexing case

Ressay's case has been vexing because he started co-operating after he was convicted. Information he provided helped convict several terror suspects and contributed to the arrest of suspected Osama bin Laden lieutenant Abu Zubaydah.

Sept. 11, 2001, days, it was "a virtually unimaginable horror," Assistant U.S. Attorney Helen Brunner told the court.

Brunner also argued that Ressay continues to pose a threat, as evidenced by his recantation of prior co-operation. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

Malnutrition

No jail for nurses who let U.S. teen drop to 28 lbs.

Two U.S. nurses have been sentenced to probation in the malnutrition death of a 14-year-old girl who had cerebral palsy and weighed

28 pounds when she died.

Mary Kilby and Kathryn Williams were sentenced in Ohio on Wednesday and will have to surrender their nursing licenses.

The two women had pleaded no contest to failing to provide for a functionally impaired child and had faced up to a year and a half in prison. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

Judge refuses to delay inquest into teen's death

Ashley Smith.

Government accused of trying to put a lid on disturbing jailhouse videos that document abuse of troubled teen

Videos

In arguing the stay, Correctional Service said the videos have not yet been put into evidence and so should stay out of the public eye until such time as that happens to avoid any tainting of the jury pool.

An inquest into the prison death of a deeply troubled teenager will be able to proceed after a judge on Wednesday rejected the federal government's last-ditch request for an emergency stay.

The decision came amid assertions prison authorities were simply trying to cover up the horrific treatment meted out to Ashley Smith that was captured on video.

In a ruling that took about an hour to decide, Divisional Court Justice Joan Lax dismissed the stay motion.

Correctional Service Canada asked for the emergency halt to the much-delayed inquest to give it time to get the courts to review a ruling by the presiding coroner that the videos should be public.

The videos at issue show, among other things, guards duct-taping Smith to an airplane seat, and forcibly injecting her with "chemical restraints" against her will.

Lawyer Julian Falconer, who speaks for Smith's family, accused the government of trying to put a lid on videos that document some of the abuse she suffered.

"I insist on Correctional Services being called an abuser," Falconer told Lax.

"This case is really about Correctional Service Canada taking all conceivable steps so that certain videos don't make it to the public record," he said.

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Hamas pummels Israel with rocket fire

Gaza attacks. Israeli officials claim militants were emboldened by visit of foreign leader

Hamas militants in the Gaza Strip fired dozens of rockets and mortar shells into southern Israel on Wednesday in the heaviest bombardment on the area in months, drawing ominous Israeli threats of retaliation

and dangers of escalation.

The violence came a day after a landmark visit to Gaza by the emir of Qatar. Israeli officials suggested the visit, the first by a head of state to the Hamas-ruled territory, emboldened the militant group.

The rocket fire began shortly after the emir left Gaza late Tuesday and continued through the night. Israeli officials said more than 80 projectiles were fired, and Hamas claimed responsibility for many of the

Daily life

"We can stay at home and just hear the noise of the war."

Tamara Cohen, resident of the border community of Ein Habesor

attacks.

Israel responded with a series of airstrikes on rocket launchers, killing two Palestinian militants, according to Gaza medical officials. Two other Pal-

estinians were killed Tuesday.

Hostilities in Gaza have been simmering for weeks, with militants sporadically firing rockets into Israel and the Israeli air force responding with airstrikes.

Hamas officials said the emir urged Hamas to do everything possible to avoid violence with Israel. Israel's foreign minister, Avigdor Lieberman, suggested the visit had the opposite effect, and was instead "clear support for terror." **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**



Ultimatum

Iran weighs nuclear standoff

Iran is weighing a more confrontational strategy at possible renewed nuclear talks with world powers, threatening to boost uranium enrichment levels unless the West makes concessions to ease sanctions.

Such a gambit — outlined by senior Iranian officials in interviews this week — could push Iran's nuclear program far closer to the "red line" set by the Israeli Prime Minister for possible military options.

But it also suggests that economic pressures and diplomacy have pushed Iran to seek relief from sanctions. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

Casualties of war

Eight more killed in Iraqi insurgency

Iraqi insurgents launched a new wave of attacks targeting security forces and others across the country on Wednesday, killing eight people, including a seven-year-old child, police and health officials said.

The insurgents attacked via drive-by shootings, snipers and roadside bombs, police said.

The attacks came a day after insurgents attacked Shiite neighbourhoods in Baghdad with car bombs and mortar rounds, killing nine people and wounding 26.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Jordan faces down terror, Arab Spring

The foiling of a planned al-Qaida terror plot in Jordan underscores a new subplot in the story of the Arab Spring: Things are heating up for King Abdullah II, a Western-oriented monarch who has run a business-friendly, pragmatic monarchy with some trappings of democracy.

Jordan, a key U.S. ally that sits at a strategic crossroads between neighbouring Syria, Iraq, the Palestinian territories, Israel and Saudi Arabia, has so far weathered 22 months of street protests calling for a wider public say in politics.

But this week's announcement that Jordanian authorities had thwarted an al-Qaida plan to attack shopping malls and Western diplomatic missions in the country has raised fears that extremists could take advantage of growing calls for change to foment violence.

The king also has been working overtime to fend off a host of domestic challenges, including a Muslim Brotherhood boycott of parliamentary elections, increasing opposition from his traditional Bedouin allies and an inability to keep the Syrian civil war from spilling over the border.



King Abdullah II in Jordan's royal palace. YOUSEF ALLAN/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

So far, Abdullah has largely maintained control, partly by relinquishing some of his powers to parliament and amending the country's 60-year-old constitution. His Western-trained security forces have been able to keep protests from getting out of hand. And most in the opposition remain loyal to the king, pressing for reforms but not his removal.

The stakes are high: Abdullah is a close friend of the United States and has been at the forefront in its war on terrorism, including in Afghanistan. Jordan serves as a buffer zone to Saudi Arabia and to Israel, a friend under a peace treaty signed in 1994.

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South Carolina

A public amnesty with a bang

Sheriffs in five South Carolina counties are offering people a chance to turn in explosives, no questions asked.

Officials have set aside this week as Explosives Amnesty Week.

People can call to have any explosives, ammunition, weapons, bomb materials or military ordnance removed from their property. Certified bomb technicians will respond to remove and destroy the hazardous materials.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Macedonia travel

Coin smuggler sentenced

An American who was caught trying to leave Macedonia with more than 200 ancient coins has been convicted and given a two-year suspended sentence.

In Wednesday's ruling, the court also banned 45-year-old Candace Lynn Dunlap, a nurse from Meridian, Alabama, from returning to Macedonia for 10 years. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Ukraine. Secrecy of president's home stokes pre-election controversy

When Ukraine's president opened up his home to TV cameras, he presented a cosy place with a small office. But his critics point to strong evidence he actually lives in a luxurious, marble-columned mansion with a golf course, helipad and ostrich enclosure.

The reported grandeur is becoming a campaign issue in a country quickly getting fed up with widespread corruption. Critics have painted Viktor Yanukovich's as a leader who basks in splendor while his main political opponent, former prime minister Yulia Tymoshenko, is locked up in prison on charges the West has called politically motivated.

Quoted

"Victor Yanukovich's main goal is not to be president but the No. 1 oligarch in Ukraine."

Political commentator Vitaly Portnikov responding to news of the Ukrainian president's lavish estate

Yanukovich has refused to answer questions about the house or the vast park where it sits but an opposition activist recently broke into the property and took several photographs of an opulent palace guarded by heavy security.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Winnipeg. Police chief won't retract comments

Winnipeg's new police chief is standing by his comments on religion after telling a Christian magazine that prayer could reduce crime in the Manitoba capital.

The article led to complaints that Clunis was

mixing religion and public office. Clunis explained at a media briefing on Wednesday that he was speaking to a Christian publication and targeting his message to that audience.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Trump pitches \$5M proposal to Obama



Real-estate mogul Donald Trump offered on Wednesday to contribute \$5 million to a charity of Barack Obama's choice if the president releases his college and passport records. SLAVEN VLASIC/GETTY IMAGES/FILE

Election overture.

Real-estate magnate challenges president to divulge passport and college records

Donald Trump has a deal for President Barack Obama — if he releases his college and passport records, the real-estate mogul will contribute \$5 million to a charity of Obama's choice.

Trump made the announcement Wednesday in a video posted to his Twitter account. He called Obama "the least transparent president in the history of this country."

Trump has endorsed Republican Mitt Romney in the presidential race. Trump drew broad publicity last year for questioning whether Obama was born in the U.S. and eligible to be president, forcing Obama to release his long-form birth certificate.

In the video, Trump said he was proud to have pushed Obama to release the birth certificate or "whatever it may be." THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Garth Drabinsky, seen in this file photo from August 2009, has been permitted to serve the remainder of his sentence at a halfway house in Toronto. PAUL DWULIT/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE FILE

Disgraced mogul granted day parole

Hearing. In his first public statements since his company's collapse, Drabinsky repeatedly denied he intentionally committed fraud

Disgraced theatre impresario Garth Drabinsky has been granted day parole and is permitted to serve the remainder of his fraud sentence at a halfway house in Toronto, the Parole Board of Canada ruled Wednesday.

In coming to its decision, the two-member panel determined the 62-year-old former entertainment mogul would not pose an "undue risk" to public safety, but denied Drabinsky's application for full release, calling it "premature."

The ex-CEO of the now-defunct Livent Inc. — the company behind such hits as Phantom of the Opera — testified at the hearing for nearly three hours via video link from the Beaver Creek Institution in Gravenhurst, Ont.

He could be seen crying and hugging his wife and two children, who were at the prison to support him.

In 2009, Drabinsky and his

Conditions

The Parole Board panel imposed several conditions on Drabinsky's six-month-long release to the halfway house, including barring him from owning or operating any business.

- Drabinsky must also submit financial and banking statements to a parole officer at least once a month and not associate with any convicted criminals, including Gottlieb.
- Drabinsky will be moved to the halfway house sometime after Nov. 11.

longtime friend and business partner Myron Gottlieb were both convicted of two counts of fraud each for a book-cooking scheme that ultimately resulted in the demise of Livent.

The court ruled that the partners orchestrated a scheme involving the falsification of Livent's financial statements to lower its expenses and make the company look like it was meeting high earnings projections.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Settlement

Watchdog reaches transborder deal with Air Canada

Canada's competition watchdog says it has protected consumers from fare increases and reduced choice on 14 transborder routes by reaching an agreement with Air Canada and its U.S. partner.

The deal, the Competition Bureau said Wednesday, will allow the airlines to

co-operate on other routes where they don't hold a near-monopoly.

Under the agreement, Air Canada and its Star Alliance partner are prohibited from co-ordinating their prices and schedules on 14 busy routes that connect several large Canadian cities with several large U.S. cities.

The federal agency will appoint an independent monitor operating at the airlines's expense to ensure Air Canada and its partner United Continental comply with terms of the agreement.

The deal "will ensure that passengers do not face higher prices and less choice on high-demand routes between Canada and the U.S. resulting from the airlines' proposed joint venture and co-ordination agreements," interim Competition commissioner John Pecman stated Wednesday.

The bureau says studies by U.S. anti-trust authorities of similar route monopolies found that prices increased by 15 per cent when there has been little competitive choice. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Strike

Bristol workers returning to work

Employees at a Sudbury industry are heading back to work. Bristol Machine Works and United Steelworkers Local 2020 reached a tentative deal on Tuesday.

The 107 workers voted on Wednesday morning to accept the three-year deal and will return to work on Thursday.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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SPEAKING IN SEVERAL TONGUES

2011 census reveals more Canadians are speaking at least two languages at home compared to 2006 census; Punjabi and Tagalog are surging, while French and aboriginal languages are on the decline

Bilingualism is surging in Canada, but not necessarily in the country's two official languages.

Statistics Canada released the last batch of data from the 2011 census on Wednesday, this time focusing on about 200 languages that make up the linguistic portrait of the country.

The data suggest that multiculturalism is not simply an abstract concept to describe a motley collection of diverse communities.

Rather, it is a reality for a growing number of families, even within the confines of their own homes.

The census shows that 17.5 per cent of the population — or 5.8 million individuals — speaks at least two languages at home. That's up from the 14.2 per cent of multilingual households counted in the 2006 census, and an increase of 1.3 million people.

Of those 5.8 million, most of them speak English plus an immigrant language such as Punjabi or Mandarin. Less than a quarter — 1,387,190, to be precise — are using both French and English at home.

And aboriginal languages are in outright decline, with usage shrinking 1.7 per cent since 2006 — a loss of 3,620 people despite a concerted effort by many First Nations to revive their culture and language.

"Yes, we see a diversity, but what we see clearly is ... we have all these transition phases where English and French are also spoken at home in addition to non-official languages," said Jean-



Bojan Djuricic and his wife, Naomi Sutorius-Lavoie, read a Serbian book to their daughter, Mila Sutorius-Djuricic, in Toronto on Oct. 17. Djuricic will be taught to speak in English, French and Serbian. NATHAN DENETTE/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Pierre Corbeil, the agency's lead analyst on the languages part of the census.

"This doesn't happen only outside Quebec but in Quebec as well."

Corbeil warned, however, that the data likely underestimate the increase in diversity over the past few years. That's because Statistics Canada had to change

the way it collects language data after Prime Minister Stephen Harper scrapped the long-form census in 2010.

Wednesday's information came from the mandatory short form that went to every household in Canada. In the past, language was in the long form that went to 20 per cent of households, and was framed in a different context.

The 2011 census numbers suggest that language diversity has been increasing at just half the rate as noted in the 2006 census, but data from Citizenship and Immigration Canada suggest the pace of change is at least the same, Corbeil said.

The census shows that the most common immigrant language in Canada was Pun-

jabi. When Punjabi speakers are grouped together with others who speak a closely related language such as Urdu, their numbers total 1,180,000.

Tagalog, the language of Filipinos, saw the biggest surge, growing by 64 per cent since the last census was taken in 2006.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Census highlights

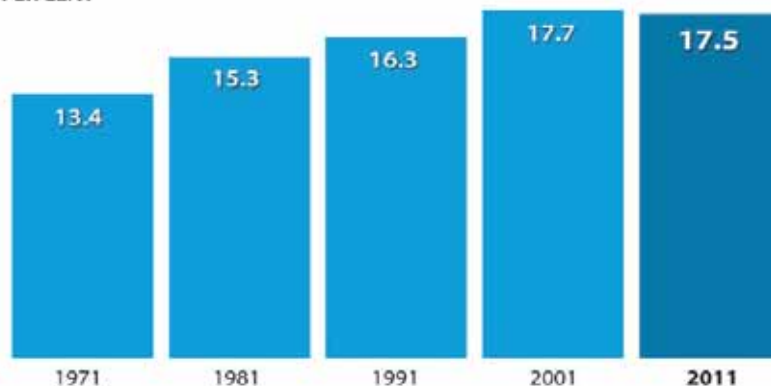
Selected highlights from Wednesday's Statistics Canada release of 2011 census data, focused on language:

- One in five Canadians — some 6.6 million people — reported speaking a language other than English or French at home; 191 distinct languages were among those identified as either a mother tongue or a home language.
- Nearly 10 million people said they could conduct a conversation in French, up from 9.6 million five years earlier; however, as a proportion of the population, those able to speak French slipped to 30.1 per cent, down from 30.7 per cent in 2006.
- The number of people who spoke Mandarin at home grew by almost 51 per cent from 2006 to 2011. Arabic grew by 47 per cent; Hindi by 44 per cent; the Creole languages by 42 per cent.
- In Toronto, Canada's most populous city, 1.8 million people — about 32.2 per cent of the population — reported speaking an immigrant language at home.
- 5.8 million people, about 17.5 per cent of the population, reported speaking at least two languages at home, up from 14.2 per cent in 2006.

BILINGUALISM RATES

A look at the proportion of Canadians who reported being able to conduct a conversation in both official languages:

PER CENT



TOP IMMIGRANT LANGUAGES

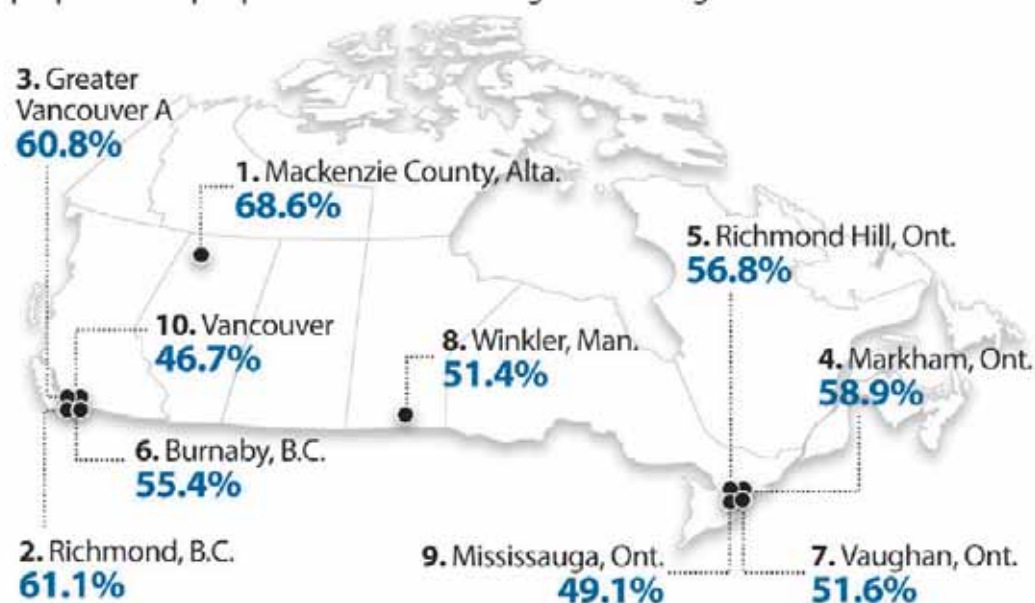
A look at the top non-official languages spoken most often at home:

LANGUAGE	2011 POPULATION	% CHANGE FROM 2006
Punjabi	394,495	25.2
Chinese*	338,795	-6.6
Cantonese	328,855	3.0
Spanish	325,260	32.4
Tagalog	278,640	64.1
Arabic	270,155	46.8
Mandarin	226,065	50.4
Italian	184,175	-5.2
Urdu	164,650	28.8
German	158,035	12.6
Persian	144,010	32.5
Russian	128,675	27.3

*Refers to persons who reported 'Chinese' without specifying further

A DIVERSITY OF LANGUAGES

A look at the communities (population 10,000 or more) with the highest proportion of people whose mother tongue is not English or French:



From left, Kelly Kim, Peter P. and Leon Song practise French and English at a language exchange at the Rivoli restaurant in Toronto on Oct. 10. AARON VINCENT ELKAIM/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Multiculturalism on display in language-sharing groups

Not even the relentless throb of a hip-hop beat can drown out the sounds of a typical Tuesday night upstairs at a typical Toronto's Rivoli nightclub.

The top floor of the bustling bar echoes each week with the staccato clack of German consonants, the melodic lilt of Japanese vowels and persistent peals of laughter as more than a hundred aspiring language students struggle to master their new tongues.

The students — from all walks of life and ranging in age from early 20s to late 70s — are members of Toronto Babel, an informal language exchange program that has been giving the city's international community a chance

to speak in new and native tongues alike for the past three years.

The din of different languages is loudest in Toronto, where 1.8 million people reported speaking an immigrant language at home, according to fresh 2011 census numbers released Wednesday. Vancouver ranked a distant second with 711,515 people reporting an at-home preference for a language other than English or French, Statistics Canada reported.

Cantonese and Punjabi ranked highest on the list of languages in Toronto, along with other Chinese languages, Urdu, Tamil and Tagalog, which originates in the Philip-

pines.

Eduardo Costa, 39, was recruited in the group's earliest days after advertising online to find an English conversation partner. The initial group of a dozen people quickly began to grow, and Costa found the people he met there began to fill the void left by the friends and relatives he left behind in his home country of Brazil.

"When you immigrate, you lose your family, your friends are still there," he says. "This group became my first new family in Canada."

Smaller Babel groups have sprung up in Ottawa and Kitchener, Ont., Babel co-leader Anna Shalaginova said.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

En français

Immersion still sought after

Immersion options in Canada's second official language are broader than ever.

The original programs have been expanded to accommodate a wider range of students, while a new program specifically for kids of francophone families is now in high demand.

The idea has broad national appeal, according to figures from advocacy group Canadian Parents for French, which says more than 30 per cent of students in every province outside of Quebec were enrolled in some form of French-as-a-second-language program in the 2010-11 school year. THE CANADIAN PRESS

According to Statistics Canada ...



1 Up/down. More Canadians speaking French

A sign on the wall of Stephane Wild's restaurant in Winnipeg on Oct. 5. Nearly 10 million people reported being able to speak French in 2011, up slightly from 2006 but down as a proportion of the Canadian population.

JOHN WOODS/THE CANADIAN PRESS

2 Fading out. Just a few native languages still going strong

A stop sign in Mohawk is seen on the Tyendinaga First Nation reserve east of Belleville, Ont., on Oct. 11. Of the more than 60 registered First Nation languages, only a relative handful — such as Cree, Ojibway, Oji-Cree and Dene — remain strong and viable. COLIN PERKEL/THE CANADIAN PRESS

3 Climbing in numbers. Tagalog-speaking population growing

Nearly 279,000 people reported speaking Philippine-based Tagalog most often at home, compared with 170,000 in 2006, an increase of 64 per cent — the largest increase of all the reported languages. JEFF HODSON/METRO IN VANCOUVER

IMMIGRANT LANGUAGES BY CITY

The top non-official languages in Canada's largest metropolitan areas:

TORONTO	%	MONTREAL	%	VANCOUVER	%
Cantonese	8.8	Arabic	17.2	Punjabi	17.7
Punjabi	8.0	Spanish	15.2	Cantonese	16.0
Chinese*	7.0	Italian	8.1	Chinese*	12.2
Urdu	5.9	Chinese*	5.7	Mandarin	11.8
Tamil	5.7	Creole	5.4	Tagalog	6.7
CALGARY	%	EDMONTON	%	OTTAWA-GATINEAU	%
Punjabi	12.1	Tagalog	11.8	Arabic	20.4
Tagalog	10.4	Punjabi	10.9	Spanish	8.1
Chinese*	9.2	Chinese*	8.9	Chinese*	7.5
Spanish	7.9	Cantonese	6.8	Mandarin	4.4
Cantonese	7.4	Spanish	6.5	Somali	3.8

*Refers to persons who reported 'Chinese' without specifying further

Market Minute



DOLLAR
100.51¢
(-0.23¢)

Natural gas: \$3.45 US (-8.5¢)
Dow Jones: 13,077.34 (-25.19)



TSX
12,195.02 (-30.81)



OIL
\$85.73 US (-\$0.94)



GOLD
\$1,701.60 US (-\$7.80)

Canyon cam. Google's backpack-sized Trekker takes pics of iconic spots

Google and its Street View cameras already have taken users to narrow cobblestone alleys in Spain using a tricycle, inside the Smithsonian with a push cart and to British Columbia's snow-covered slopes by snowmobile.

The search giant now has brought its all-seeing eyes — mounted for the first time on a backpack — down into the Grand Canyon, showcasing the attraction's most popular hiking trails on the South Rim and other walkways.

It's the latest evolution in mapping technology for the company, which has used a rosette of cameras to photograph thousands of cities and towns in dozens of countries for its Street View feature. Internet users are transported virtually for a 360-degree view of locales they may have read about only in tourist books and seen in flat, 2-D images.

"Any of these sort of iconic, cultural, historical locations



Google operations manager Steve Silverman walks with a backpack-sized camera called the Trekker on Monday along the Grand Canyon's Bright Angel Trail.

RICK BOWMER/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

that are not accessible by road is where we want to go," said Ryan Falor, product manager at Google. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

Ottawa cracks down on prepaid plastic

New regulations.

Card issuers will have to be transparent about fees and conditions

Ottawa is stepping in with new rules for the largely unregulated prepaid credit-card market.

Finance Minister Jim Flaherty announced Wednesday that in the future, issuers of prepaid cards will not be able to impose expiry dates and must be upfront about hidden fees and conditions.

The move is part of the government's expanding code of conduct measures to govern credit and debit transactions, which had previously not applied to the relatively new prepaid market.

"We have done a lot of regulation with respect to debit and credit cards. We haven't done much with respect to prepaid cards," Flaherty said.

While still a small segment of the market, prepaid plastic has become an option for consumers without conventional credit or debit cards, young adults and for parents who want to introduce their children to using credit while limiting the risk of theft and overspending.

Quoted

"In our view, it was inappropriate for financial institutions to have cards go dormant."

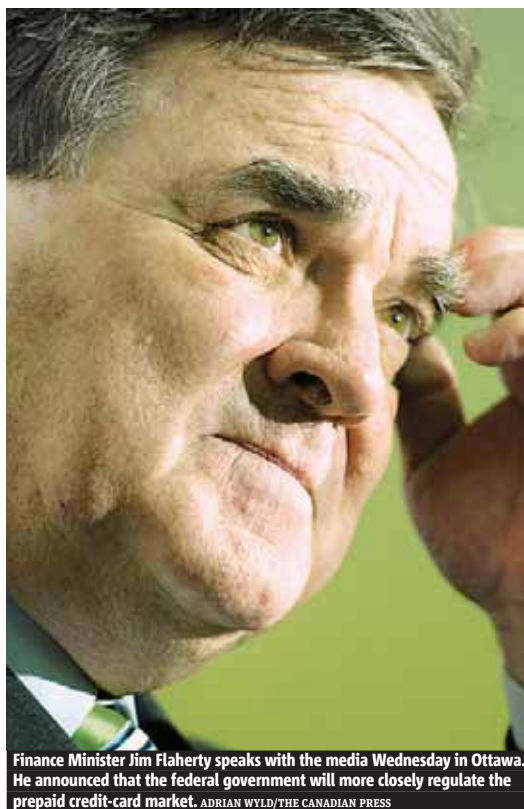
Finance Minister Jim Flaherty

But the sector has also faced criticism for exorbitant hidden fees that reduced their face value and fooled customers. These can include monthly or annual fees, maintenance costs as well as ATM charges.

"In our view, it was inappropriate for financial institutions to have cards go dormant. For example, people would get cards as gifts for their birthdays or whatever and not realize that the \$200 on the card would expire over a certain period of time," Flaherty said.

"We're addressing that kind of thing, so that it'll be more like currency to have a prepaid card, just as it is to walk around with a debit card or a credit card."

The new regulations in Canada would require an information box disclosing the fees displayed prominently on the exterior package and other documentation prior to issuance. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**



Finance Minister Jim Flaherty speaks with the media Wednesday in Ottawa. He announced that the federal government will more closely regulate the prepaid credit-card market. ADRIAN WYLD/THE CANADIAN PRESS

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At last, good news for Facebook stock

Facebook shares posted their biggest single-day gain Wednesday since going public in May, jumping 19 per cent to close at \$23.23 US after the social-media company made inroads in mobile advertising and posted accelerating growth in overall ad revenue.

On Tuesday, Facebook gave details for the first time on how much money it made from mobile ads. This has been a concern since before its IPO.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Browser blunder

EU says Microsoft broke agreement

The European Union's executive arm formally accused Microsoft on Wednesday of failing to comply with a binding agreement to give customers a choice among Internet browsers. Microsoft said the matter was the "result of a technical error."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

UBC study. Summer babies have tough crawl to the top

Do you have a summer birthday? It could be a speed bump on the way to the corner office. A new study from the University of British Columbia's business school finds that summer babies are less likely to be CEOs.

Researchers at the Sauder School of Business checked out the birth dates of 375 chief executive officers from S&P 500 companies between 1992 and 2009. They found that only about six per cent were born in June or July.

By contrast, people born in March and April represented more than 12 per cent and 10 per cent, respectively, of the sample.

It seems that summer babies have a tougher crawl to the top because of what researchers call the "birthdate effect."

That refers to the way children are grouped by age in school.

"It's amazing," said finance professor Maurice Levi, co-author of the study. "You're a

50- or 60-year-old CEO and it all goes back to when you started school, if you were the big guy in class or the little scrawny guy in the back corner."

In the U.S., cut-off dates for school admission fall between September and January. Levi and his team determined that those CEOs in the sample born from June to July were typically the youngest in their class. Those born in March and April were the oldest.

The same would be true in Canada, where children born in January and December of the same year would be in the same class, Levi said.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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KEEPING UP WITH BLOODSUCKING VERMIN



HE SAYS...
John Mazerolle
metronews.ca

Don't be alarmed, but this column may be covered in bedbugs.

I'm not entirely sure if bedbugs have infiltrated my apartment, but I was bitten by

SOMETHING recently, so like all chewed-on city dwellers I've been panicked that it could be the little bloodsuckers.

That means if you've touched this column, you should freeze it, steam it, fumigate it, poison it, microwave it, holy-water it and simmer it in a white-wine sauce for 40 minutes, stirring occasionally. Even then, that will only stun the little bug(ger)s, because they're the insect equivalent of the Incredible Hulk.

Once nearly eradicated, bedbugs have made a comeback worthy of a B-list actor in a Tarantino flick.

And they're everywhere.

Online bedbug registries for pre-screening apartments and hotels are useless, because all you learn is that bedbugs are omnipresent — like the body snatchers — and there's nothing us foolish humans can do about it. (Pro tip: If a bedbug rates a location as eight out of 10 or higher and is raving about the buffet, steer clear.)

Bedbugs are filling their ick quotient so well that I looked at the welts on my arm and hoped they were from something pleasant, like a spider. If an exterminator looked at my skin and said, "Actually, that's from a wolf" I'd say, "Oh, thank goodness. Do we spray for that?"

There is hope, however. I've been reading up on bedbugs, as one does when you swear you can feel them on your skin at every waking moment. They can be fought, but you need to know your enemy, so here are some myths about the creatures and the reality behind them. Happy hunting!

- **Myth #1:** Bedbugs are invisible.

Reality: Bedbugs are seldom seen because they only come out at night. They are actually several feet long and live in your closet. Telltale signs include a viscous trail of slime and opened canisters of Pringles.

- **Myth #2:** Bedbugs are a sign of uncleanliness.

Reality: Bedbugs can live anywhere from the poorest, most squalid apartment to the cleanest hairpiece on the richest Trump. Bedbugs are attracted not to dirt but to sin, which is why they live in your bed. They will migrate to the living room immediately if you turn on the Kardashians.

- **Myth #3:** Bedbug bites come in threes.

Reality: Bedbugs know you know this, so they sometimes throw in a fourth bite and scurry off, giggling.

- **Myth #4:** You need an exterminator to get rid of bedbugs.

Reality: All you need for a successful bedbug kill is a shoe. Beat until you see telltale black and blue markings. They'll still be alive at that point, but they'll know who's boss. A Nike shoe will doubly impress them with your alpha-ness, especially later that night when they're nibbling on your earlobe.

And now you know.

Sleep tight!



Bedbug-detecting dog Barney signals which jar contains bedbugs. But don't wait for Barney to tell you that you've got bedbugs — grab a shoe and start swinging.

BRIAN KERSEY/GETTY IMAGES

Psy, this is UN Style



ALLISON JOYCE/GETTY IMAGES

South Korea connection

UN boss horses around with Psy

UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon got some dance lessons from compatriot South Korean pop sensation Psy.

On a visit to the United Nations in New York Wednesday, the rapper, born Park Jae-sang, attempted to teach the world's top diplomat the invisible horse trot dance from his global viral hit Gangnam Style.

METRO

UN chief's viewpoint



"I'm a bit jealous. Until two days ago someone told me I am the most famous Korean in the world. Now I have to relinquish. I have no regrets."

UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon on his countryman Psy

Singer's viewpoint



"To be here and he knows me, even the fact that he knows me is so touching right now, and he's saying he saw my video, he counted my video views."

South Korean rapper Psy on meeting the head of the UN

Gangnam engages

Why Ban wanted to meet Psy

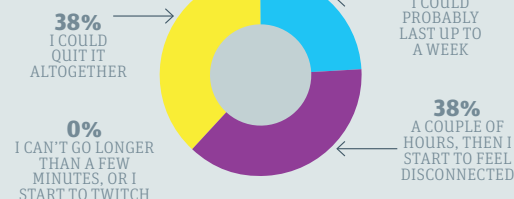
Ban's spokesperson Martin Nesirky told reporters that while the secretary general deals with issues such as Syria, he also considers it important to engage different parts of society.

"He firmly believes music has great power, particularly in helping to overcome intolerance," he said. "It helps to reach out to audiences in a way that many other forms of culture cannot do." METRO



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How long could you go without your cellphone?



Twitter

@jakedougan29:

Hockey drought is killing me, need to find a league in #ottawa to get on the ice !

@dpentillier:

Being trapped in a chilean mine > being trapped in an ottawa secondary school

@amytamar:

Must take fall photos before everything goes colder and ugly!! #ottawa #rush

@notoriousled:

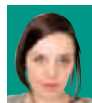
Seriously wondering how Brampton is rated one of the worst places to drive in...OTTAWA IS 100x WORSE. Gettin cut off like its my job out here

@Cakemom2:

Dear Ottawa drivers, that truck trying to get through traffic with lights and siren blaring is called an ambulance, pls act accordingly!!!!

Entertainment for the end of the world

Eschatos. Local artists ready to perform a live radio play about the apocalypse



BACKSTAGE PASS
Jen Traplin
ottawa@metronews.ca

Looking for a fun way to acknowledge the supposed Mayan calendar prediction of Earth's demise at the end of this year? Some local artists have created a radio play about it.

Composer, producer and musician Mike Dubue, known for his work in electro-pop group Hilotrons, spearheaded the project. He enlisted the help of award-winning poet and author David O'Meara, artist and actress Jennilee Murray, and 2010 World Poetry Slam champion Ian Keteku. Together, they created Eschatos.

Like traditional radio plays, Eschatos will feature performers creating the sound effects live.

"There are a number of scenes that require different sound effects. By necessity, a couple of them will have to be sampled on a machine but, for the most part, we want to do as many foley effects as we can live —

Details

The Ottawa International Writer's Festival presents Eschatos — a live dramatic radio play. Eschatos features an original score by Mike Dubue and a live performance by cellist Octavie Dostaler-Lalonde. For tickets, go to writersfestival.org.

- **When.** Tuesday, Oct. 30 at 6:30 p.m.
- **Where.** Knox Presbyterian Church (120 Lisgar St.)

everything from footsteps to campfires," explains collaborator David O'Meara.

"Everything we write cannot be visually based in any way — it has to be about what you hear."

Fellow writer and performer Jennilee Murray admits that the concept of performing a piece entirely for auditory purposes made the writing process a challenging one.

"We had several incarnations of the radio play and, sometimes, we had to look at each other and honestly say 'no, this does not work. Let's try again,'" she says.

There are no immediate plans to record and release Eschatos to radio, but O'Meara hopes the audience



Jennilee Murray is one of the writers and performers of Eschatos. ANGELA MARKLEW/CONTRIBUTED

at the world premiere will enjoy the unique opportunity of seeing this kind of art form performed live.

"The immediate goal is to put on the performance in an entertaining and, hope-

fully, thought-provoking way. As much as the show has been billed as a radio play, it is a live performance."

Murray agrees, saying she hopes the audience can

fully immerse themselves in the experience. "With multimedia swooping up our imaginations, I'm hoping that we can all take a step back, close our eyes, and enjoy the story."

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Sitcom king's wit, wisdom hidden in his shows

Imparting wisdom. Hollywood's superstar writer drops little messages into single frames of all of his hit shows

Chuck Lorre — whose trio of hits includes *Two and a Half Men*, *The Big Bang Theory* and *Mike & Molly* — isn't just a towering comedy mogul.

He's also one of the most widely distributed writers in the world. His tart, often darkly funny dispatches reach a weekly audience of more than 30 million.

Granted, the number of people who actually read these tiny treatises is another question. Each of Lorre's posts appears on-screen for a single fleeting second at the end of his shows, in the form of so-called vanity cards — a graphic ID for the show's production company.

The Chuck Lorre Productions vanity card has been an outlet for Lorre's random observations since 1997, when alert viewers of the ABC sitcom *Dharma & Greg* began noticing fine print on the screen which, by freeze-



Chuck Lorre, the undisputed king of sitcom TV. BEBETO MATTHEWS/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

framing their VCR, they could dwell on long enough to read.

Among Lorre's proposals on Vanity Card No. 1: "I believe that the Laws of Karma do not apply to show business, where good things happen to bad people on a fairly regular basis" and "I believe that when ABC reads this, I'm gonna be in biiiig trouble."

As the years passed, Lorre kept issuing a fresh card for every episode of each show with his latest reflections, revelations and rants.

On one, he listed "words that confused the CBS censor" (a frequent object of his ire). Among them: kumquat, manhole, cunctation and Dick Butkus.

Now 333 of those musings — including a few that were censored by the network — have been gathered by Lorre in a rather magnificent coffee-table book, *What Doesn't Kill Us Makes Us Bitter*, complete with lavish illustrations and even a sewn-in bookmark, a courtesy usually reserved for cookbooks and Bibles.

In the foreword, Lorre explains that his vanity-card mission has been "to use prime-time television to chronicle an unraveling life and raveling career in subliminal, one-second increments."

And with his output already available on his website, he decided the book should be graphically ambitious "in a desperate attempt to add value to something that was never intended to have any."

Lorre may come across as wryly self-dismissive, but in

New deal

Chuck Lorre has been feeling a new level of confidence of late.

- **Big deal.** Now Lorre's horizons are expanding further. He recently signed a four-year development and production deal with Warner Bros. that covers broadcast, cable and films. (Lots more reach for his vanity cards?)

a recent interview, he says he takes his scribbles very seriously.

"I started this because it was an opportunity to try and write prose and I found it very satisfying and very different than writing a script. This is much more personal. And at times," he adds with one of his frequent what-ya-gonna-do? shrugs, "it's gotten too personal."

You want personal? That was vented while erratic, hard-partying star Charlie Sheen was clashing bitterly with Lorre and the show's studio, Warner Bros. Only a few weeks earlier, they had been forced to fire Sheen and

cut short the show's eighth season.

While being bashed by Sheen all over the media Lorre was under the gun to salvage TV's top-rated comedy and keep his other shows on track.

How did he cope? "I threw myself into the work even more," he says. "The only thing I could do was work harder."

With a wiry frame, a trim beard and a head of tangled curls, Lorre is self-taught as a sitcom scribe. Now 60, the Long Island, N.Y. native got the itch to write for TV in his mid-30s, after a decade or more spent touring the country as a less-than-wildly-successful guitarist-songwriter.

He hit the jackpot in 2003, when he co-created *Two and a Half Men*.

In 2007, he hit it again when he co-created *The Big Bang Theory*.

Then, in 2010, he won the triple crown with *Mike & Molly*.

All were huge successes and established Lorre as the biggest sitcom magnate since Norman Lear's reign in the 1970s with such blockbusters as *All in the Family* and *Sanford and Son*.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Thursday, October 25

HAPPY FLIGHT 「ハッピーフライト」 (2008)
DIRECTOR: SHINOBU YAGUCHI
19:00—103 minutes

Friday, October 26

FEEL THE WIND 「風が強く吹いている」 (2009)
DIRECTOR: SUMIO OMORI
19:00—133 minutes

Saturday, October 27

5 CENTIMETERS PER SECOND 「秒速5センチメートル」 (2006)
DIRECTOR: MAKOTO SHINKAI
19:00—60 minutes

VILLON'S WIFE 「ヴィヨンの妻」 (2009)
DIRECTOR: NEGISHI KICHITARO
20:30—114 minutes

SOMEDAY 「大戦時局動員」 (2011)
DIRECTOR: JUNJI SAKAMOTO
21:30—93 minutes

ALSO:
Japan Animation Film Festival: Friday, November 2, 2012
18:30
Venue: Bell Canada Theatre (Minto Centre), Carleton University
18:30: 5 Centimeters Per Second (2006, 60 min.)
19:30: The Place Promised in Our Early Days (2004, 91 min.)

For more information on these and other events, please visit:
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Moviegoers are in for some ear candy with the premiere of The Hobbit

New sound technology. Dolby's fresh system will make Peter Jackson's next film a sight to be heard

Middle-earth will sound more realistic in The Hobbit.

Dolby Laboratories Inc. and director Peter Jackson's Park Road Post Production announced Wednesday that The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey will be mixed and released in Dolby Atmos, the company's immersive new sound system that features two extra arrays of overhead speakers and the ability to direct sounds to individual speakers inside movie theatres.

"(Jackson) felt it was going to make a big difference in how he tells stories," said Stuart Bowling, Dolby's senior technical marketing manager. "He doesn't want people to just go and observe his movies. He wants you to feel like you're



The Hobbit is scheduled to hit theatres on Dec. 14 HANDOUT

part of the experience of the stories that's he's trying to tell on the screen and allow you to be part of Middle-earth."

The director of the Oscar-winning The Lord of the

Rings films adapted J.R.R. Tolkien's tale of Bilbo Baggins, set in the fictional realm of Middle-earth 60 years before The Lord of the Rings. Besides the standard 2D format,

Warner Bros. Pictures and Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer Pictures are releasing the series in high-frame-rate 3D, IMAX and other 3D formats.

Bowling said Dolby's goal

is to have the Atmos platform installed in 80 to 100 theatres in time for The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey, which is scheduled to premiere on Dec. 14.

The second and third films, The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug and The Hobbit: There and Back Again, are set for release Dec. 13, 2013, and July 18, 2014.

Other movies slated to be released in the Atmos format include Fox's Chasing Mavericks and Life of Pi. Disney-Pixar's Brave was the first film to debut with the audio format earlier this year.

Bowling said the company expects more than 15 films to be released in Atmos next year and hoped to have the system in 1,000 theatres by the end of next year.

"Dolby Atmos is fantastic from a sound quality position," said John Neill, head of sound at Park Road Post Production. "We can now hear full range surround speakers, meaning that when we pan from the front to surround, the sound does not change in quality. The overhead speakers give us the opportunity to place the theatre patron really in the location."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Gerard Butler has new respect for the folks who hang 10

Chasing Mavericks.

Actor tried riding some of the most dangerous waves in the U.S. to get into character for film about surfing

JOEL AMOS
Metro World News in Hollywood

Gerard Butler had only the most basic appreciation for surfing before he set to work on Chasing Mavericks — and that's putting it mildly.

"I had surfed about three or four times in my life," Butler admits.

The Scottish actor knew he'd have to amp up his game if he wanted to properly capture the essence of surfing great Frosty Hesson, who taught teenager Jay Moriarity (played by newcomer Jonny Weston in the film) to ride mavericks, which are considered the

most dangerous waves in the country.

Not one to shy away from a challenge, Butler dove right in — and paid for it with an epic wipeout.

"Jonny Weston and I both surfed mavericks. It was where I was taken down," Butler says with a coy smile.

With the experience of getting pulled under a wall of water, his admiration for what these athletes do only intensified.

"It taught me a lesson. It's not a pleasant experience," he offers.

Even though that moment sent him to the hospital, Butler marvelled at the sport's ability to foster a Zen-like feeling in the surfers as they ride these incredibly dangerous monsters of water.

"It's incredibly meditative and spiritual," Butler explains.

"I found the whole experience really transformative.

"When you get up on

that wave and become one with it, you just become one with nature."

The second challenge facing the actor was portraying a real-life individual, and Butler wanted to do Hesson justice as a complex person.

"He's a very philosophical character and he's well-read.

"So I wanted to play that guy who enjoys that, but at the same time, he harbours a lot of pain," Butler says.

"There's the person you experience, but he also now knows the stories being told about him."

It was an effort that mirrored his last film, Machine Gun Preacher, also about a real, larger-than-life personality.

"I experienced the same with Sam Childers," Butler explains.

"They become used to



Chasing Mavericks, opening Friday, saw Gerard Butler get dumped by some big waves. HANDOUT

Quoted

"It's incredibly meditative and spiritual. I found the whole experience really transformative. When you get up on that wave and become one with it, you just become one with nature."

Gerard Butler on learning how to surf like a pro for his role as surfing great Frosty Hesson in Chasing Mavericks.



telling their story to people who are interested in telling their story, rather than the person who was living the story."

Now that Butler has the experience under his belt, he looks back fondly on the moment he knew that Chasing Mavericks would be his next film — which happened to coincide with a completely different kind of lesson, which found him

not in the water, but in the sky.

"I was learning to fly a helicopter along the coast. I saw all the guys on surfboards.

"I was like, 'What am I thinking? I need to get a place in Malibu and I need to take this movie and learn how to surf!'" Butler says.

"I touched down and called them and said, 'Let's do it!'"

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Hanks, Berry have their heads in the clouds

Rare opportunity.

Both actors relished the chance to play multiple and very different characters in *Cloud Atlas*



NED
EHRBAR
Metro World News in Hollywood

Actors love a challenge, right?

So the idea of playing as many as six characters across very different time periods — from the 1800s to the post-apocalyptic future — must have been exhilarating for Tom Hanks, Halle Berry and their *Cloud Atlas* co-stars, right?

"I thought they were all a b—, to tell you the truth. "They were all tough," Hanks says with some

laughter.

But in all seriousness, playing all those characters — and putting on all the makeup involved in distinguishing them — was far from daunting for Berry.

"They weren't tough at all.

"Honestly, it was like the most fun to stretch.

"I got to play a white Jewish woman in 1930 — like, when would I get to do that?" she asks.

"Like, you just don't get better than having to choose from all these unique people and characters.

"I'll never get to be an Asian man again, probably ever."

One thing Hanks definitely wasn't worried about was looking silly.

That's something he stopped doing a long time ago, anyway.

"I've had experiences

on a number of occasions where we were going to shoot for something that was going to be very precarious and sometimes it works," he says.

"Like *Castaway* was a movie where we thought, 'We are breaking every rule here. Is anybody going to give a s— about this guy when he never talks and he's on an island and all it is (is) about falling coconuts?'"

"Every movie is a huge minefield that you're walking, not if it's going to be a success but if it's going to be a cohesive story that people get.

"In this case, they just threw so deep and it was so attractive if only for that reason, that you throw your lot in.

"Otherwise what are you going to do? Only make movies that are guaranteed to work?"

"Well, guess what, we could be sitting here talking about *Forrest Gump* Six, which is a lot better than *Forrest Gump* Five.

"Who wants to do that for the rest of their lives?" he adds.

But the release of *Cloud Atlas* is a bit bittersweet, at least for Berry, as she wor-

ries she'll never do another film like it.

"I think in my lifetime it's going to take someone to be wildly visionary and willing take the risks," she says of the independently financed \$100 million film, directed by Lana and Andy Wachowski and Tom Twyker.

"Not to say it can't be done, I just don't know if the lottery will put my name in another venture like this.

"To be in a movie that's going to envelop these concepts, where you will need one person to play six people — I doubt that they're going to make it again in two years, because we're doing it now."

Hanks agrees with the sentiment, adding that *Cloud Atlas* may have spoiled the actors, who have to return to more traditional films now.

"We are all spoiled because we always said this: 'The next time we're in a movie, we're just going to play one person,'" Hanks says.

"He might have as many as six costume changes, but it's not going to be the same as playing all of these people," he adds.

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Tom Hanks stretches his acting skills in *Cloud Atlas*. It opens Friday. HANDOUT

Quoted

"I just don't know if the lottery will put my name in another venture like this. To be in a movie that's going to envelop these concepts, where you will need one person to play six people — I doubt that they're going to make it again in two years."

Halle Berry on the bittersweet feeling she had when she finished her work in *Cloud Atlas* and realized she probably wouldn't get another opportunity like this in her career.



Lindsay Lohan. ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

Lindsay Lohan struggling with political choices

Amid all the confusion currently engulfing Lindsay Lohan's personal life, at least the world knew where the troubled actress stood politically — until now. Lohan had previously endorsed Mitt Romney in the U.S. presidential election because "employment is really important right now," according to E! News.

But while live-tweeting the last presidential debate earlier this week, Lohan voiced her support for President Barack Obama by re-tweeting a post from the president's campaign saying she was "proud of Obama."

The tweet was soon

Quote

"I'm so relieved that it's over. Maybe more than both of (the candidates.) Severe anxiety"

Lindsay Lohan
Tweeting about the election debate

deleted, though, so maybe she is on Team Romney after all.

It sounds like the debates were rough on the actress, in any event.

"I'm so relieved that it's over. Maybe more than both of (the candidates.) Severe anxiety."

METRO DISH

OUR TAKE ON THE WORLD OF CELEBRITIES

The Word



Joe Simpson coming out of Jessica's stylish closet?



THE WORD
Dorothy Robinson
scene@metronews.ca

Looks like Ashlee and Jessica Simpson are going to have a lot to talk about around the Thanksgiving dinner table.

First up? Their mother, Tina Simpson, filed for divorce from their father, Joe Simpson, after 34 years of marriage last month.

"It is an amicable split and there is no third party involved," a rep for the family says. "Any other related allegations are completely false. The family appreciates your respect for

their privacy at this time." The allegations they refer to? Well, the National Enquirer is reporting that their father, Joe Simpson, has come out of the closet.

According to the tabloid, Simpson has a 20-year-old boyfriend, who was reportedly in the car with the former youth pastor and Baptist minister when he was busted for a DUI on Aug. 4.

I'll give you a second to let that sink in. Got it together? Good. The National Enquirer even has a source from the family.

"The police report stated that there was someone else in the car with Joe. Some reports have stated it was Tina, but now the belief is that it may well have been a boyfriend."

Of course, there is a good chance this might not be true. After all, if Jessica Simpson's father were gay, don't you think her shoe line would be a little more fierce?



Emma Watson

Emma Watson returning to school

Emma Watson is going back to school. After enrolling in Brown University in the fall of 2009, the British actress took a leave of absence from the Ivy League school in March 2011.

"I love Brown and I love studying pretty much more than anything, but recently I've had so much to juggle that being a student and fulfilling my other commit-

ments has become a little impossible," Watson wrote on her blog at the time.

She then spent her junior year abroad, studying at Oxford University, before delaying her return to Brown once again to film a number of projects this summer and fall. But her rep assures Gossip Cop that she will be back on campus for 2013.

Twitter



@rustyrocks

Mitt and Barack are not proper names. I'd like an elderly female candidate in a crown.



@CarrieFFisher

I'm a failed anorexic.



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Like to see a REAL reality talent show: the contestant goes backstage with a Hollywood producer and we never find out how they got the job.



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SHOPPERS DRUG MART





So Dajana, what's your schedule been like today?

Woke up at 10 a.m., rehearsal at 1 p.m. for the Pink Tartan show, an appointment at 3:30 p.m. to get my hair and eyebrows done, hair and makeup call at 6 p.m. and show's at 8 p.m.

So a bit of a crazy day for you?

No, actually (laughs). Compared to the other cities, Toronto is very calm and relaxing. In Paris, casting would start anywhere from 7 a.m. onward. I had to learn the metro system, I would be running around all day, all night. There's no such thing as walking! And you're always late. Running from castings to fittings to go-sees until all hours of the night.

So up until this past September, you had modelled only locally so that you could

DAJANA

In the two and a half years since we last spoke to model Dajana, the 20-year-old has achieved more than many in her profession will hope to in their entire career. Back from Europe to her hometown of Toronto to take on World MasterCard Fashion Week, the five-foot-11 beauty chats with Metro's Elizabeth Beddall about mayhem, McQueen and one major piece of swag

WALKING THE WORLD

finish high school. What are your thoughts now that you've graduated and gone international?

Now that I've got the ball rolling, I'm not going to stop. Going back to school is a future plan. I want to be a film director, but maybe in a couple of years. I want to see where modelling is going to take me. My next trip is to New York for campaign season.

How does your family feel about all this travelling?

They've been so supportive. If it wasn't for my family I don't know where I'd be ... and Elmer of course.

Elmer Olsen is the agent who discovered you. Can you tell me a little bit about how that happened?

I was shopping in the Eaton Centre with my friend. I heard footsteps behind me, really hard footsteps. I see out of the corner of my eye a tall, white-haired man. I see him running after me. I start to walk faster. He taps me on my shoulder and says, 'Excuse me, are you a model?' I replied no. The reason being — I always wanted to be a model since I was two-feet high. I went to an open call in Grade 10 and I got rejected. After that meeting, I hated everything fashion. So

when Elmer scouted me, I didn't want to hear it.

So what changed your mind?

He convinced the friend I was with to help him find me again. She told him where I went to school and he asked one of his former models (who happened to go to my high school) to reach out to

me. She did. It means a lot for an agent to go that distance. He claims it was 17 days, four hours later that I called him. He wasn't counting the days, he says.

So on your very first go in Europe, you opened for Roland Mouret, landed an exclusive booking with Jil Sander SS13 and walked for Alexander McQueen. What made you stand out from the crowds of girls that are seen?

I don't know, but I know what the casting directors say: My sense of humour. Fifty per cent of a job is personality. If you get along with your photographer, your stylist, that job can be really fun and it can go by really quickly.

Tell us about waiting backstage to hit the runway at the McQueen show?

I think I was the only model freaking out. They have experienced girls in the shows. Very few of us were brand new.

And when it was over?

At the end of the show, I thought, 'Am I dreaming?'. That was my goal.

My first season? It was so surreal.



An incredible Alexander McQueen outfit worn by Dajana. PROVIDED



Dajana walks for Jil Sander in Milan. PROVIDED



Dajana opens the Roland Mouret show in Paris. PROVIDED

And I heard you got a little surprise along the way?

When I was having a fitting and the people at Alexander McQueen said they had a gift for me. (Points to her black smooth calf leather Heroine bag.) I was searching for a bag, too.

So now that you're constantly on the runway, do you have a little something you say to yourself each time you walk out?

Don't fall! (Laughs.) Don't fall. It would be so embarrassing, but you know what? It happens all the time. You just have to get up and keep on walking.



Dajana smooches a McQueen bag that the design house gifted her for doing their show. PROVIDED

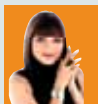


Blast from the past...

"The best thing that's happened so far is N.Y. Fashion Week. I'd like to do Paris and Milan..."

Dajana quoted in a Metro feature, published March 29, 2010

Twitter



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@Jeanne_Beker: Look what @AGOToronto sent out as the must-have accessory @WMCFashionWeek. A unibrow! #FridaDiego



@Jeanne_Beker: At the ROM with the legendary Pat Cleveland at the Toronto Premiere of the doc "Versailles '73"



@Jeanne_Beker: With @CameronDecades, wearing my Patrick Kelly button! He's signing his new "Decades" book...

The Kit

Canadian street style

Spotted in: Vancouver

Jane Espiritu
Editorial assistant at MTV Fora
Age: 20

What she's wearing
Blazer, collared blouse, trousers and bag by Club Monaco; pullover vest by J Crew; vintage watch by American Apparel; thrift store shoes

Her inspiration
"Laid-back, business casual look."

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HALLOWEEN FUN

Thursday, October 25, 2012

Big Bird meets Gangnam

Costumes. Some of the hottest outfits this Halloween season are inspired from pop culture

HEATHER
BUCHAN

For Metro



that every year there is more and more variety available. What you choose simply depends on budget, taste and time.

Here are some of this year's hottest costumes for people of all ages:

Depending on a child's age, costumes are more about fun than fright, with many toddlers wobbling around in cutesy, rather than scary, attire that's sure to elicit some ghoulish giggles.

For preschoolers, the most popular costumes year after year include animals (puppy dogs, turtles, cats, horses, bunnies and cows reign supreme) as well as firefighters, bees and, interestingly, hotdogs.

While traditionally spooky costumes like ghosts, ghouls, goblins and witches are classic go-to's every year, increasingly, popular cul-



ture influences the costume decisions of teens and adults for Halloween parties.

At Candy's Costume Shop on Mount Pleasant Road in Toronto, Dorothy costumes have already sold out, a trend staff attribute to the reality TV singing competition *Over The Rainbow*.

Other popular teen and adult costumes that experts predict will be out and about in abundance include Lady Gaga (her eccentric wardrobe provides

endless outrageous costume options), South Korean pop star Psy, whose pop song *Gangnam Style*, complete with invisible horse dance moves, went viral on the Internet, and Big Bird (thanks to U.S. presidential candidate Mitt Romney's name-dropping of the beloved *Sesame Street* character during the first presiden-

Transylvanian vampire costume, far left, and Dorothy costume, \$32.93 each at Walmart.



tial debate). According to ABC News, Big Bird costumes are flying off the shelves at U.S. costume shops.

Year after year, the most popular costumes for boys are of the superhero variety, and this year, the impact of the *Twilight* franchise on tweens and teens alike cannot be overstated. So you can expect to see boys and girls alike dressed as vampires and werewolves this year. Superhero costumes, including Batman and Captain America, both influenced

by the mega-popular films, will also be plentiful.

While in days past, many young girls donned princess costumes to do their trick-or-treating in, this year, staff at Candy's have seen more young girls opting for vampire and ghoulish costumes. And thanks to the recent *Little Red Riding Hood* and *Snow White*-based movies, there is expected to be a resurgence of both fairy tale characters this year as well.

Given all the costume options, Halloween 2012 is sure to be a spooktacular.



Popular costumes for adults this year include Big Bird, and South Korean pop star Psy, below. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE PHOTO

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Walk among the dead

Fear faces. DIY tips for giving yourself a ghoulish makeover

ASTRID
VAN DEN BROEK
For Metro

Does *The Walking Dead* have you inspired this Halloween to go zombie? If so, Allison Lumley, owner of Main Artery Designs in Red Deer, Alta., gives us her best tips on turning zombie for the big night.

WHAT TO USE?

Lumley says you can start with regular makeup for a DIY look, such as foundation or eye shadow, keeping in mind that the best bruise colours are greys and black. "Then you can add white glue and toilet paper for a wrinkle or decay effect," she said.

Looking for a more professional look? Visit your local Halloween or theatrical store to pick up basic face paints, theatre blood, and liquid latex/spirit gum for adhering things to your face.

USE A GUIDE

"Have an image of a skull and use the shadows and highlights from the skull's bone structure to guide your make up," Lumley said. For example, think dark shades around eyes, temples, collar bone, throat and highlighting the cheek bones to give features more depth.

Here is Lumley's step-by-step process for turning into a zombie:

- 1 Moisturize to prepare your face since you are about to add a lot of makeup to it.
- 2 Apply a base colour such as a pale blue or grey.
- 3 Add latex wounds or glue/tissue. "For instant wrinkles, pull back the skin on your forehead so it's tight and put on a layer of glue. Blow dry, then let go," Lum-



A zombie parades down Queen Street West during the Toronto Zombie Walk on Oct. 20, 2012. CARLOS OSORIO/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICES

ley said. Or squint as tight as you can and lightly dab shade in the form of blacks and greys with a makeup sponge on the squint lines.

- 4 Add some red around the bottom of the eyes.
- 5 Mix corn syrup and red food colouring to make coagulated blood to add to wounds, or even swish around your mouth and let it drool out for extra blood effects.

- 6 Remember to include the neck, ears and hands — think all exposed skin — to keep the effects real.

"And for the ultimate look, you can buy special contact lenses or 'Zombie Rot' for your teeth, and rub conditioner through your hair to make it look lifeless and dirty," Lumley said.



People attend Belgrade's Zombie Walk in Belgrade, Serbia, on Oct. 20, 2012. DARRO VOJINOVIC/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Tutorials for creepy creations

We are only a week away from Halloween, do you have your costume ready? If you are planning an elaborate Halloween costume or looking for a last-minute idea, consider adding a swipe of makeup to your fright night festivities.

Embrace your inner zombie or scary character for the holiday, thanks to face paint and a little creativity.

We tracked down the best Canadian Halloween makeup tutorials on YouTube to take your costume to the next level.

Crazy Face — youtube.com/watch?v=h6070oEi rQ&list=PL96C5DAD11C1D30E3&index=1&feature=plpp_video

Vampire — youtube.com/watch?v=UujCxliW01Y&list=PL96C5DAD11C1D30E3&index=5&feature=plpp_video

Living Doll — youtube.com/watch?v=w5fBbOjv9tQ&list=PL96C5DAD11C1D30E3&index=14&feature=plpp_video

Swamp Thing — youtube.com/watch?v=mgeU1IBDSZo&list=PL96C5DAD11C1D30E3&index=28&feature=plpp_video

Tiki Mask — youtube.com/watch?v=lkbISq9X-qE&list=PL96C5DAD11C1D30E3&index=31&feature=plpp_video

Two-Faced Zombie — youtube.com/watch?v=F K2HigpTAM4&feature=plcp

Walking Dead — youtube.com/watch?v=g36f5SfoVVA

Witch — youtube.com/watch?v=4N8ga7ohwRA

METRO

Haunts. Screaming's always in style

ASTRID
VAN DEN BROEK
For Metro

Have you toured a haunted house yet in the lead-up to Halloween? Why exactly do we love our haunted experiences so much?

"I think it's something so different from your average experience," says Danusia Rogacki, area manager of technical and event services for Canada's Wonderland, the Vaughan, Ont.-based theme park that produces

an annual Halloween Haunt. "People like to feel safe and they assume that most places they go are safe. So they get this kind of thrill when they come in and are expecting to be scared and a monster pops out and they get a little jolt of adrenaline. It's so removed from everyday life."

While Rogacki says its corn maze has remained one of the haunt's most popular attractions, she is seeing other types of experiences grow in popularity as well.

"Our clown maze, for

example, because I think clowns are a staple fear for a lot of people. And our vampire nightclub has been really popular, too," she said. "You look at those three experiences and they're completely different. The corn maze is outside in the forest — it's all organic and natural materials and then our nightclub is sleek and metals and lasers."

Meanwhile, Rogacki thinks haunts of many sorts — commercial and home haunts (independent haunts

held in parking lots or farmer's fields for example) — are a growing attraction.

"The last couple of years this type of attraction has just exploded in popularity," she said. "We're starting to catch up to the States in terms of the popularity with those kinds of events."

So how can you make the most out of your haunt experience this year?

Here are Rogacki's tips:

- Go to your favourite haunt on a quieter day and time if possible. "Sundays, for ex-

ample, are quieter so visitors have more time to see their favourites and do their favourites again."

- Go after dark, of course. Many open around dusk at 7 or 8 p.m.

- Tour the haunt in small groups. "That way they'll feel more isolated when they get scared."

Want to find one near you?

Try The Haunted Walk (hauntedwalk.com) or search the Canadian Haunters Association website (canadianhauntersassociation.com).



Haunted House experiences have exploded in popularity.

ISTOCKPHOTO/THINKSTOCK

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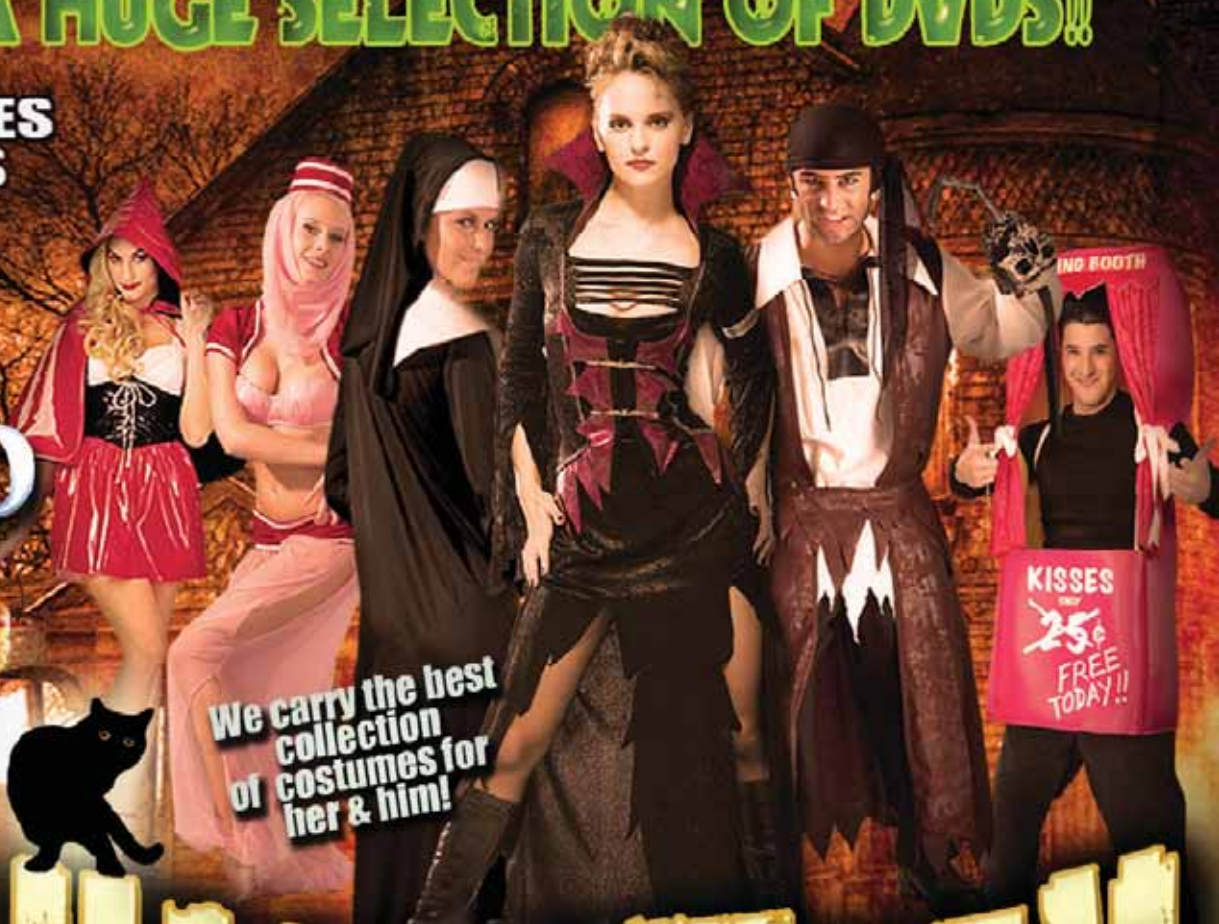
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Make your home the scariest on the block

ASTRID
VAN DEN BROEK
For Metro

Looking to freshen up your home's look for Halloween? Before you drag out the stringy cobwebs and Styrofoam tombstones, consider going a different route this year.

Metro asked Karl Lohnes, its Décor Moment columnist, for his thoughts on what's hot for the scariest day of the year.

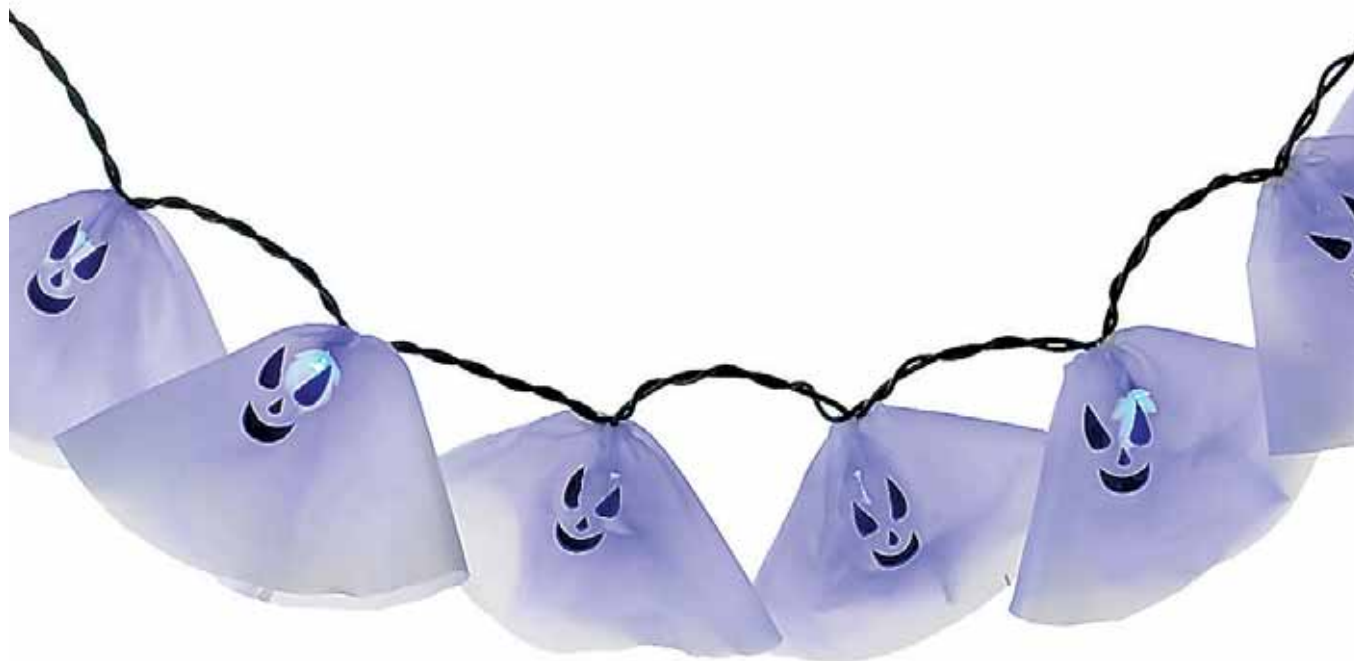
HAVE FUN WITH LIGHTING

Forget stringing up your Christmas lights early to decorate your front porch. "One of the big trends this Halloween is going more experiential décor," Lohnes said. "So we're going to see people putting strobe lights up inside the window, or hanging not Christmas lights, but Halloween themed mini-lights. They tend to go all out with it." Or, he adds, you can take a different approach with lighting — say bunching up a string of Halloween lights and after they are lit put them into a beautiful glass bowl for a unique centrepiece.

To further create a mood, add in a touch of sound either inside or outside your front door. "And if you're having a party, the sounds create some eeriness. Instead, it all works to create a mood," Lohnes added.

THINK BEYOND ORANGE

Forget the traditional strict orange and black colours this year. "There isn't as much orange as we think this year,"



Dress up your home with Fabric Ghost Lights, \$14.99, above, Spider Pillar Candle, \$6, below left, and Indoor Pumpkin Lights, \$19.99, all available at Canadian Tire, canadiantire.ca. CONTRIBUTED

Lohnes said. "Following popular trends, there are a lot of grey, black, and off-white — it's just more solemn colours to create more of a sophisticated Halloween look rather than just going all orange."

GET CREATIVE WITH PUMPKINS

"People are really



doing some interesting things with pumpkins this year," Lohnes said. "And they're doing them to real gourds and artificial ones as well — so changing nature in a way to make it look more interesting."

This year's approaches include opting for white pumpkins from the store rather than traditional orange, painting pumpkins a unique colour, or blinging up their front door gourds. "They are using spray glitter on their pumpkin to have the whole thing have a bit of a shine to it," Lohnes said. "Or they've sprayed a few gourds with glitter and put them in a basket, so adding some bling to nature."



Bite into these candy safety tips

Erica Ehm from YummyMummyClub.ca has some safety tips when your children are out trick-or-treating.

"My daughter is severely allergic to nuts and I'm asking parents to be sensitive this Halloween," she said.

Halloween Candy: Bite Into These Safety Tips

1. Have children wait to open their candy until they return home so parents can inspect them. Watch for signs of tampering, such as small pinholes in wrappers and torn or loose packages.

2. Accept only wrapped and packaged candy. Dispose any candy or food that is not wrapped tightly by the candy company.

3. Do not give homemade or unwrapped treats to children.

4. Be sure to read the label of ingredients to ensure the candy hasn't come in contact

with nuts.

5. When offering treats, provide peanut-free options made in a peanut-free facility.

As food allergies are so common, Halloween can be a very stressful night for parents. This year, Nestlé is asking Canadians to Paint the Town Red by purchasing Nestlé's Assorted snack size bars in the iconic red box, place the box in their window so parents know that house is a peanut-free home.

According to Anaphylaxis Canada, peanut allergy affects about two in 100 children and half of Canadians know someone with a serious food allergy. It's easy to make Halloween safer for everyone involved, including kids and their family and friends, by making the right choices. For more, visit nestle.ca.

When in doubt, throw it out! METRO



Follow some simple tips when handing out candy at Halloween to make it safe for children. CONTRIBUTED



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SPECIAL INFORMATION FEATURE

Brains and brews

Halloween. Tear into a Monster Ale after you roam the streets from the Zombie Walk



JEFF
O'REILLY
For Metro

With dozens of new Hollywood scream flicks making a killing in theatres and *The Walking Dead* being one of TV's most popular shows, it's hard not to get revved up about one of the most colourful and exciting times of year.

Halloween is upon us and if you are looking for some last-minute suggestions to get in the spirit of things there are plenty of options from which to choose.

Saunders Farm (7893 Bleeks Rd. in Munster) has been providing spooky and scary experiences for the whole family since 1992. With haunted hayrides, the Gathering Of Ghouls and the Barn of Terror, this place is frighteningly fun and one of the area's most popular attractions. And you can quench your blood thirst with a pint of Beau's Lugtread while you are there. For more, see saundersfarm.com.

The Haunted Walk (44½ Sparks St.) shines a light on the darker side of our local history with historically based ghost stories and visits to some of the creepiest and most ghoulish places in the downtown area. A visit to death row at the Old Ottawa Jail is truly a hair-raising experience. If you are on one of the late night visits, you can grab a pint of something seasonally festive from Beau's in Mugshot's Bar, which is housed in the courtyard below the gallows (and scene of Canada's last public execution). For more, see hauntedwalk.com.



Ottawa Zombie Walk organizer Bryony takes a break from planning with a Brooklyn Monster Ale. JEFF O'REILLY/FOR METRO

The Ottawa Zombie Walk (facebook.com/events/426186164109213) has been an annual tradition since 2005. Saturday's walk starts at 3:30 p.m. at Ground Zero (MacDonald Park) and drags itself up to a staging area on Sparks Street before a final assault on Parliament Hill. Photo ops galore and a wicked "After-Life" Party at D'Arcy McGee's with its terrifyingly large beer line-up. Thrill The World Ottawa will be re-enacting the iconic Michael Jackson Thriller video at 6 p.m. on Sparks Street.

Brooklyn Brewery's Monster Ale (10.3 per cent alcohol by volume, \$2.95, 355 ml LCBO) is a beast of a barley

Centre of Excellence awards

- Our region shone at last weekend's Ontario Craft Brewers Conference, picking up three of six Centre of Excellence Awards. Beau's All Natural Brewing won for marketing innovation and sustainability ac-

complishments, while the inaugural National Capital Craft Beer Week got the nod for community building. Congrats to Beau's and NCCBW for their outstanding contributions in the Ontario craft beer scene.

wine, pouring a crisp, burnt orange with taupe head that quickly disappears. The nose swirls with raisins, caramel and burnt sugar, leading to tastes of plums/raisins, toffee, and burnt brown sugar with hints of citrus, nuts and fruit

hiding in the background. The mouth feel is medium-bodied and moderately carbonated with a slightly sticky, but wonderfully warming, slightly bitter finish. The perfect nightcap for adults after trick-or-treating.



Pay a visit to Bart Hrudu at The Candy Store in Westboro for your Halloween treats. SAMANTHA EVERTS

Spooky treats at The Candy Store

Instead of binging on mini boxes of chocolate and licorice you can buy the candy you really want at Ottawa's premier treat boutique, open since 2008.

At The Candy Store in Westboro, candy corn saltwater taffy or pumpkin-spiced malt balls are two of the most popular fall flavours. Owner Bart Hrudu has also brought in some spooky treats for this haunted time of the year.

"Watching someone bite the head off a (life-size) gummy rat is pretty gross," he said. "But they're delicious."

There is an array of real insect snacks, including barbecued-spiced crickets or chocolate-dipped bugs.

The store specializes in hard-to-find retro candy that will have you reminiscing about what you used to get trick-or-treating 10 or 40 years ago.

"We've got Halloween kisses," Hrudu said of the orange-wrapped chewy caramels. "As a Canadian kid, you'd get lots of those

in your pillowcase."

Memories of rooting around for your favourite Halloween treats can be found in the store's loot bags. We found Airheads, Pixie Sticks, eyeball gum, taffy, chocolate balls, gummy pizza, fruit chews and a handful more sweets to fuel a good sugar high. The staff is very knowledgeable on nut-free and gluten-free products. Halloween-themed cupcakes (some decorated like spiders) from Thimble-cakes are also available.

If you aren't sure what you like, all bulk candy is the same price. "So you can try everything," Hrudu said.

The owner's enthusiasm for candy is contagious. "There's something magical about candy. If you weren't smiling when you came in, you will when you leave."

The Candy Store is located at 350 Richmond Rd. For more information, see thecandystoreottawa.com.

SAMANTHA EVERTS

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JULIE STOCK
For Metro

No time to pack and go to France? The Bordeaux 2009 are highlights in the Oct. 27 release of LCBO Vintages. Why not pick up a couple bottles along with a travel magazine, put the fireplace on, uncork a bottle and taste

a little of France in your own domain.

Château Toumilon Blanc 2009, France (LCBO #314864, \$16.95)

A dry white, easy sipper and a silver medal winner — yum.

Three Saints Chardonnay 2009, Australia (LCBO #297531, \$20.95)

Classically styled white with tropical fruits and a nutty finish.

Angel's Gate Mountain View Merlot 2010, Canada (LCBO #299172, \$18.95)

Dark red fruit character, rich

in texture and tannins.

Rolf Binder Heinrich Shiraz/Mataro/Grenache 2008, Australia (LCBO #90258, \$24.95)

Mataro is also known as Mourvèdre in some countries. Deep violet, tastes of ripe blueberries and plums and worth every penny.

Château Lalande Mousse 2009, France (LCBO #303859, \$16.95)

Dark cherry coloured, aromas and flavours of red berries and class!

GRAND TOTAL: \$98.75
FOR MORE, SEE SAVVYCOMPANY.CA.

Elect to sip on these wines



SEASONAL SIPS
Allyson Bycraft
For Metro

Halloween, Oct. 31:

You may be on your honour to stay away from your kids' Halloween candy, but Malivoire Albert's Honour Old Vines Foch 2010 (\$24.95, LCBO #551036) with its concentrated black fruit, would be a great match with chocolate.

"Foch" is short for Marechal Foch, a red hybrid grape. While most hybrids in Canada have long been replaced with the usually-superior vinifera (classic grapes like Cabernet Sauvignon, Chardonnay, etc.), Foch has proven to make



top-quality wine in the Niagara region. Available at Vintages Saturday.

U.S. Election Day, Nov. 6:

Saints may be in short supply on U.S. election day, so a glass of Three Saints Chardonnay 2009 (\$20.95, LCBO #297531) from the folks at Dierberg Starlane Winery in Santa Barbara County, Calif., might be just the thing to keep you on the straight and narrow while watching the results.

This Chardonnay comes from a vineyard in the very cool climate Santa Maria Valley AVA, which gives it nice acidity to balance out the full fruit, honey, and spice flavours typical of California Chard. Available at Vintages Saturday.

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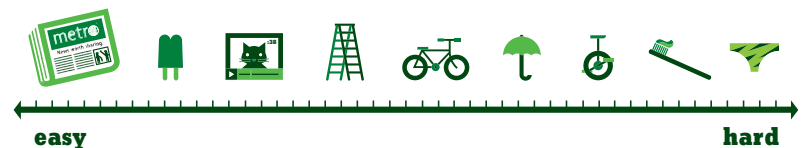
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Guilt-free brownies — no, seriously

Boasting sugar alternatives, these cocoa-nut Brownies from The Joy of Gluten-Free, Sugar-Free Baking by Peter Reinhart and Denene Wallace make a great treat.

1. Heat the oven to 350 F. Line an 8-inch square baking pan with parchment paper, then mist it with cooking spray.

2. In a medium bowl, combine the pecan flour, almond flour, Splenda or other sweetener, cocoa

powder and baking powder. Whisk until well mixed.

3. In large bowl, whisk the eggs, soy milk, butter, vanilla and liquid Stevia until thoroughly blended. Add the flour mixture and whisk or stir with a large spoon until all of the ingredients are evenly incorporated to make a smooth, sticky batter. Pour the mixture into the prepared pan, spreading it in an even layer.

4. Bake for 15 minutes, then rotate and bake for another 10 minutes, or until the brownies are just slightly springy but still jiggle when pressed gently at the centre. If you like fudgy brownies, remove them from the oven at this point. If you prefer them to be more cake-like, continue baking for a few more minutes, or until a toothpick inserted at the middle of the brownies comes out clean.

5. Let the brownies cool in the pan for at least 15 minutes. You can either cut the brownies in the pan, or transfer the whole piece to a cutting board before cutting. Cut them in a 3-by-4

Ingredients

- 2 cups (8 oz) pecan flour
- 1 cup (4 oz) almond flour
- 2 cups Splenda or Stevia Extract in the Raw, or 1/2 cup New Roots Stevia Sugar
- 1/2 cup (1 1/2 ounces) unsweetened natural cocoa powder (not Dutch-process)
- 2 tsp baking powder
- 3 eggs
- 1/2 cup unsweetened chocolate soy milk or chocolate almond milk
- 1/4 cup (1/2 stick) salted butter or margarine, melted
- 1 tbsp vanilla extract
- 1/2 tsp liquid Stevia

Cocoa-Nut Brownies



This recipe makes 12 servings. MATTHEW MEAD/ THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

grid to yield 12 brownies.
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS/ RECIPE

FROM PETER REINHART AND DENENE WALLACE'S THE JOY OF GLUTEN-FREE,

SUGAR-FREE BAKING, TEN SPEED PRESS, 2012

Cookbook of the week

All the yum, none of the regret



After more than two decades of research into gluten-free baking, legendary bread maker Peter Reinhart and his baking partner Denene Wallace have released a collection of 80 recipes for breads, pastries, cookies, cakes and more.

The Joy of Gluten-Free, Sugar-Free Baking also allows readers to make the recipes vegan friendly by following dairy and egg substitution guidelines.

Recipes include: banana bread, garlic breadsticks, blueberry-hazelnut muffins, carrot cake with cream cheese frosting and more.

METRO

Lentil Cookies. A one-of-a-kind treat that's healthy

To make the lentil purée in this recipe, purée four parts cooked lentils with one part water. You can stir the purée into soup.

1. Heat oven to 190 C (375 F).

2. Use food processor to cream together butter and sugar until smoothly combined. Add egg, vanilla and lentil purée and continue until mix is smooth.

3. In separate bowl, whisk flour, baking powder and salt, evenly distributing the finer powders among coarser ones. Add dry ingredients to the wet ingredients and mix well.

4. Stir in chocolate chips. Roll into balls or drop by spoonful, placing about 5 cm (2 inches) apart on a lightly oiled baking tray. Bake 12 minutes. Let cool,

Ingredients

- 125 ml (1/2 cup) butter, softened
- 500 ml (2 cups) brown sugar, 1 egg
- 10 ml (2 tsp) vanilla
- 125 ml (1/2 cup) lentil purée
- 500 ml (2 cups) all-purpose flour
- 10 ml (2 tsp) baking powder
- 2 ml (1/2 tsp) salt
- 500 ml (2 cups) chocolate chips

then serve. THE CANADIAN PRESS/ CHEF MICHAEL SMITH FOR LENTILS.CA



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Helping a living room grow up

I live alone in an apartment that I rent. My living room is a good size (12-by-16) and I get nice sun light. I want to redecorate, and I am sick of seeing my oversized brown couch. I don't want my small apartment to look small and want it to feel more grown up. -Sandra, Montreal



DESIGN CENTRE
Karl Lohnes
home@metronews.ca

Find a few things in the room that you love and build the room around them.

The rug, for instance, is a classic, and although pink, Persian-style rugs are not the biggest rage at this time, your quality rug can stay in the room as long as you build around the colours and classic style. I have chosen a palette of greys and pinks to play off the carpet and give the room a sophisticated, feminine look.

The first thing to do is to

get your furniture ordered, which will often take a few weeks. This will give you time to clear out the living room and paint the walls. Wait until the furniture is in place before deciding on lighting, artwork and small accessories. This will give you a better idea as to what is needed.

Designer touches

- Hang a large mirror over your new sofa to bounce light into the room.
- Add dark grey drapery panels on each side of the window to soften the room.
- Choose a medium-wood tone for picture framing in the room to tie in the floors and furnishings.
- Add decorative cushions — patterned ones on the plain sofa and plain ones on the patterned chairs.



Before

Sandra's living room needed to grow up in terms of style and decor.



Paint

The simplest way to change the look of the room is to add colour to the walls. I suggest a deep pink brick colour. This will help tie in the Persian-style rug that is currently in the room. Lip Gloss, Benjamin Moore.



New sofa, \$2,100

I suggest a foggy blue/grey coloured sofa to help cool down the room and give it a sophisticated feel. Tailor Sofa, Crate & Barrel.



TV stand, \$600

A sleek media centre will be a better option than the crate that currently holds the television. Demio Media Shelf, Structube.



Side chairs, \$600

Purchase two upholstered side chairs and place them in front of the window, separated with a small side table. RUSS Chair, Urban Barn.



Storage, \$650

Ground the entrance wall with a stylish wardrobe to keep coats, shoes and sports equipment hidden away. PAX Wardrobe, Ikea.

A greener alternative to water heating

Is a solar thermal system a good way to heat our household water?
-Karl, Mississauga, Ont



QUEEN OF GREEN
Toviah Paglaro
green@metronews.ca

Hot water is the second largest draw on household energy — right after space heating — and represents about 30 per cent of total energy use in our homes. So you are right to be turning to the sun for green alternatives.

Solar thermal systems convert sunlight into heat for household water through solar collectors mounted on roofs. Water, or a water and anti-freeze solution, carries heat from the collectors and pumps it through a heat exchanger to warm water for a hot-water storage tank. From there, it's ready for your bath and home.

A typical system requires about six square metres of sloped, south-facing roof, with minimal shading from nearby trees and buildings. An abundance of sunny weather is not a prerequisite. Solar energy comes from the light generat-

ed by the sun — not just from direct sunlight — so even on cloudy days the sun can generate enough energy for up to 60 per cent of domestic hot-water needs.

Although solar thermal systems aren't cheap to install, the savings associated with reduced dependency on fossil fuels may well offset your long-term costs. This is especially true of systems installed for summer use — like those for pools or cabins — where costly freeze protection packages aren't required.

A solar heating system will also add value to your home.

Municipal and provincial governments are in various stages of approving legislation requiring new homes to be "solar ready." It will bolster your credibility with your green neighbours and earn a great big thumbs-up from me.

Once you've done a little research to determine if your municipality or local utility company has rules or rebates that pertain to solar heating, the next step towards installing a system is to contact a solar company and request a free assessment. Professionals can assess your home's suitability and the potential costs,



Even on cloudy days, the sun can generate enough energy for up to 60 per cent of domestic hot-water needs. ISTOCK IMAGES

and may even recommend other popular solar options that could be better-suited to your particulars.

Solar thermal technologies aren't new, but you'll likely be an innovator in your community.



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Just when you thought it was safe...

Each week, the hosts of House Hazards explore some of the most unexpected dangers in our own homes. Recreating blazing kitchen grease fires, erupting vacuum cleaners and bursting helium tanks is all in a day's work. Best to listen to their advice on the top five hidden hazards you might experience in your home.

House Hazards airs Tuesdays at 10 p.m. ET/PT on HGTV Canada.



Junk drawer

Lots of people have junk drawers in their house, where they throw all types of common household items.

But, if you put some items together in that drawer — like spare batteries and a steel wool dish scrubber — the combination can actually create a hazard and result in a small fire.

Microwave

A microwave alone isn't a hazard ... necessarily. But place the wrong household item inside and you can end up with some hazardous results. If you place whole eggs inside, the microwave's energy boils the eggs from inside the shells until they explode. Forgot to take the aluminum foil off your baked potato? You'll end up with plasma and fire created by the energy of the microwave on items.



Clothes dryer

Ignoring the lint buildup in your dryer's filter can actually cause clothes dryer fires.

The lint can ignite if it comes into contact with the dryer's heating coils, creating a serious fire hazard.

Kitchen sink

Did you know that people actually clean their toilet seats more often than they do their kitchen sinks?

The kitchen sink is used for all sorts of potentially hazardous activities, from rinsing raw meat, which can contain salmonella and other bacteria, to the household mop.



Grease fires

At room temperature, cooking oil is not flammable.

But when it's heated up past 200 degrees Celsius, it can catch fire. Hot oil can be especially dangerous if water is dropped into it. Water is heavier than oil, and sinks to the bottom of the pot, where it turns to steam and expands. This can push the oil up and out of the pot and onto your stove's burner.

This is also why you should never try to put out a grease fire with water. This reaction will actually spread the fire, rather than extinguish it.

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Pros share their pumpkin-carving secrets

Halloween. You can't stop your pumpkin from deteriorating, but there are some 'delay tactics'

Think you know the latest tricks for carving a creepy pumpkin? The pros continue to push the barriers.

A handful of people become professional pumpkin carvers each fall, specializing in fantastical designs. Among them are Alex Wer, self-proclaimed pumpkin geek, who lives near Sacramento, Calif., Scott Cummins, a Perryton, Texas middle-school art teacher and Marc Evan and Chris Soria, the Maniac Pumpkin Carvers of New York City.

Wer does his carving between insurance sales and an evening package-delivery route.

He works with the fake, foam pumpkins sold at craft stores, so his intricate work has longevity. Evan and Soria drop their jobs as illustrators for a few months to carve pumpkins for festivals, parties and individual clients. The long hours leave the two childhood friends battling sore wrists and aching backs by late November.

"It's a labour of love," says Evan, who also carves pumpkins on the Food Network's Halloween Wars this season.

Here are some of their tips of the trade:

1. Choose your pumpkin wisely

"You want to have a stem, and you want it to be a healthy stem, because that stem is still providing nutrients for the pumpkin," says Soria.

Don't cut into your pumpkin around that perfect stem. Instead, access the pumpkin from its backside to help preserve freshness. Cutting out a stem cap weakens the Jack-o'-lantern, says Evan. And hiding the opening in the back gives the pumpkin more visual punch.

"It's esthetically more pleasing seeing the glow from (only) the design, not creeping out from where we might have cut the hole at the top," says Evan.

2. Preparing your pumpkin

Before carving a face, scrape and clean the inside of the pumpkin. The cleaner you get it, the longer it will last.

"I always tell people, 'Gut it out twice as much as you think you need to,'" says Wer. "It should be very dry inside."



The Maniac Pumpkin Carvers' interpretation of *Starry Night*, by Vincent van Gogh, left, which was commissioned by the Museum of Modern Art in New York City, where it was displayed in the lobby last Halloween. Right, a bird house scene carved on a pumpkin. MANIAC PUMPKIN CARVERS/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

3. The carve

Folks, there are two kinds of pumpkin carvings — the lighted Jack-o'-lantern face and the three-dimensional sculpture, in which a pumpkin is treated like a block of wood — only stinky and less permanent. The Maniac team carves both styles. Cummins carves in creepy 3D. The tools are the same, but they're used in different ways.

Take either carve up a notch by adding depth and texture. Wer carves up to five layers in his faux pumpkins to get a mix of light and shadow for a photorealistic

quality.

Learn this skill, called shading, by scraping part of your design into the gourd.

"It just creates this new layer and this multi-level depth," says Wer.

Need more help? Check out pumpkin-carving tutorials, such as those posted by The Pumpkin Lady on YouTube.

4. More about tools

The Maniac team favours tools from the kitchen or garage, primarily paring knives, graters and saws. They tout linoleum cutters and sculpt-

ing tools.

Linoleum cutters have several gouge tips. Evan likes the V-gouge for making precise cuts, whether shallow or deep. Ceramists' sculpting tools are metal loops on a stick — in various shapes and sizes — that can be purchased at art supply and craft stores. They slice smoothly through pumpkin rind.

Those cheap pumpkin-carving kits? All four of our expert carvers love them.

The Maniac team uses the orange plastic scoop to clean out hundreds of pumpkins — fast. Cummins uses the scoop too, and praises the kit's flimsy, serrated blade.

"Don't underestimate that little saw," Cummins says. "Sometimes there is a need to cut slowly and deliberately, and that is when the little saw is indispensable."

5. Preservation

Once a pumpkin is carved, it begins to deteriorate.

"You will certainly notice a difference in 24 hours," says Cummins in his online tutorial.

Says Evan: "You can't preserve a pumpkin. We recommend 'delay' tactics."

Those include:

- When a Jack-o'-lantern is

Quoted



"Pumpkin carving is definitely not the easiest way to make money. It's not a 'get rich quick' scheme."

Marc Evan, professional pumpkin carver

not on display, Wer says, give it a bath. He has had as many as eight pumpkins bobbing overnight in his bathtub.

- Preserve cut edges with a lemon juice-water mixture, says the Maniac team. Then seal them with vegetable oil or petroleum jelly. Store your carving in the refrigerator or wrap it in plastic wrap and store in a cool place.

- And quick, take a photo. It's the "best and most essential way to preserve your creation," says Cummins.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



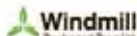
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Lockout. Darkness falls on NHL labour talks

The NHL's labour talks have entered a dark period. When that will lift is anyone's guess.

Rather than working towards progress on a new collective bargaining agreement in the coming days, the league is expected to start making grim announcements that will be all-too-familiar to fans who lived through the 2004-05 lockout.

It's a virtual certainty that a full 1,230-game schedule won't be played, with commissioner Gary Bettman acknowledging Wednesday that "it looks like an 82-game



Gary Bettman THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

season (for each team) is not going to be a reality."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Doping fallout

Armstrong N.Y. marathon results could be purged

Lance Armstrong's results erased from the record books will likely include his 868th-place finish at the 2006 New York City Marathon.

Marathon organizer New York Road Runners said in a statement on Wednesday it expected to wipe out his times once any potential appeals play out, since the race follows USADA rulings.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NHL. Blue Jackets bring in veteran exec Davidson

Unlike many people in hockey, John Davidson wasn't afraid of the losing tradition of the Columbus Blue Jackets.

"I like the idea of the challenge. I mean, it's possible. In fact, it's something we're going to do," Davidson said Wednesday after being hired as the Blue Jackets' new president of hockey operations.

The former player, Hall of Fame broadcaster and St. Louis Blues president believes he can transform a franchise with just one, brief trip to the post-season into a Stanley Cup contender.

Quoted

"We'll win our share. As we move along here, we'll win more than our share."

John Davidson

Davidson will take over a new position. The former president, Mike Priest, will now concentrate only on the business side of a team that had the worst record in the NHL last season (29-46-7, 65 points).

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

'Knothole gang' gathers for free look at World Series



Giants third baseman Pablo Sandoval hits a first-inning home run off of Tigers starter Justin Verlander in Game 1 of the World Series on Wednesday night in San Francisco. CHRISTIAN PETERSEN/GETTY IMAGES

MLB. Chain-link fence in left field gives San Francisco fans rare view of baseball heroes

They're teens skipping school and adults driving through the night to line up before dawn in soggy San Francisco — all for a chance to watch a few innings of the World Series for free.

The die-hard fans are known as the "knothole gang," a group prepared to endure all sorts of discomfort for their Giants, just as they did at AT&T Park in 2010 when the team battled the Texas Rangers, and again this September and throughout the playoffs.

Early Wednesday fans began lining up again, and the queue kept growing as game time approached.

From the park's "knothole," the lucky ones share the same vantage point as Giants right fielder Hunter Pence, peering through a chain-link fence enclosing four viewing portals stretching about 100 feet under the right-field stands. They'll

shake the fence and scream insults at the opposing right fielder, who stands just feet away.

There is no other place like it in the Major Leagues. The Giants' ballpark is the only stadium in the country with the feature, but there are rules: No chairs, dogs or drinking. And every three innings, security rotates people in and out.

But for those who lined up 12 hours or more before the first pitch, the price was right.

"I could afford maybe one ticket, but not a ticket for everyone," said Tony Bryson, 44, who travelled from Sacramento with his two sons and three of their friends to secure a spot. They arrived around 7 a.m. and bundled up against the cold and rain of the early morning.

Bryson and his group also viewed the 2010 World Series from the "knothole" area and they and the other regulars wouldn't have it any other way.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Go to metronews.ca/sports for coverage of Game 1 of the World Series.

Quoted



"I have a good relationship with all those guys. It will be exciting to play against them. It will be extra motivation."

Tigers slugger Miguel Cabrera, who is one of at least nine Venezuelans playing in this year's World Series.

Hot ticket?

11,000

As of Tuesday afternoon, there were 11,000-plus listings for tickets for the World Series opener on the resale market, according to fansnap.com, with an average price of \$784 US and a low of \$313. Later in the day, listings dropped to 9,200 and the low fell to \$256.

No closer conclusion



"Just going to play it by ear, see what happens."

Tigers manager Jim Leyland, who hadn't made a decision on his closer going into Game 1. Lefty Phil Coke earned saves in Games 2 and 3 against the Yankees, brought in against a team with powerful left-handed hitters. Usual closer Jose Valverde has struggled so far this post-season.

New York Islanders to call Brooklyn home



Workers sweep in front of the Barclays Center in Brooklyn in September. The New York Islanders will move there from Nassau Veterans Memorial Coliseum in Uniondale, N.Y. KATHY WILLEN/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

Now hockey is coming to Brooklyn.

The NHL's New York Islanders have agreed to move to the Barclays Center starting with the 2015-16 season.

"Hello Brooklyn!" Islanders owner Charles Wang said as he made the announcement at a news conference Wednesday. The lease deal is for 25 years.

Officials in nearby Nassau County, N.Y., have struggled for years to come up with a plan to either renovate or build a new arena to replace the Nassau Veterans Memorial

Staying close

The Barclays deal took seven months to complete and was finished Tuesday night, according to Wang, who said he had wanted to keep the team local.

Coliseum, which opened in 1972. Wang, the founder of a computer software company, presented a plan in 2003 for a privately funded multibillion-dollar development of housing, retail and a new arena on

the property, but the proposal met community opposition.

Wang had long threatened to move the team from its home in Uniondale after the club's lease expired following the 2014-15 season.

"Brooklyn is big time and now we have the big-league sports to prove it," Mayor Michael Bloomberg said.

Long Island fans seemed resigned to the move for a team that won the Stanley Cup every year from 1980 through 1983 but missed the playoffs last season.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

MLB	
WORLD SERIES	
(Best-of-7)	
San Francisco (N.L.) vs. Detroit (A.L.)	
Wednesday's result	
Detroit at San Francisco	
Thursday's game	
Detroit (Fister 10-10) at San Francisco (Bumgarner 16-11), 8:07 p.m.	
Saturday, Oct. 27	
San Francisco (Vogelsong 14-9) at Detroit	

LATE MONDAY	
GIANTS 9, CARDINALS 0	
St. Louis	AB R H BI BB SO Avg.
Jay cf	4 0 1 0 1 2 .207
Beltran rf	4 0 1 0 1 0 .300
Holliday lf	4 0 1 0 0 0 .200
Craig 1b	4 0 0 0 0 0 .125
Y.Molina c	4 0 4 0 0 0 .393
Freese 3b	3 0 0 0 1 1 .192
Descalso 2b	3 0 0 0 0 1 .200
d-T.Cruz ph	1 0 0 0 0 1 .000
Motte p	0 0 0 0 0 0 —
Kozma ss	3 0 0 0 1 2 .227
Lohse p	1 0 0 0 0 0 .000
J.Kelly p	0 0 0 0 0 0 —
Mujica p	0 0 0 0 0 0 —
a-Chambers ph	1 0 0 0 0 0 .000
Rosenthal p	0 0 0 0 0 0 —
b-S.Robinson ph	1 0 0 0 0 1 .000
Boggs p	0 0 0 0 0 0 —
Salas p	0 0 0 0 0 0 —
Schumaker 2b	1 0 0 0 0 0 .000
Totals	30 0 7 0 4 8
San Francisco	AB R H BI BB SO Avg.
Pagan cf	5 1 2 1 0 1 .242
Scutaro 2b	4 1 3 0 1 0 .500
Sandoval 3b	4 1 1 1 1 0 .310
S.Casilla p	0 0 0 0 0 0 —
Ja.Lopez p	0 0 0 0 0 0 —
Romo p	0 0 0 0 0 0 —
Posey c	4 1 1 0 1 0 .154
Pence rf	5 1 2 2 0 2 .179
Belt 1b	5 2 2 1 0 0 .304
G.Bianco lf	3 2 2 1 0 2 .182
B.Crawford ss	4 0 1 1 0 1 .217
M.Cain p	3 0 1 1 0 2 .400
Affeldt p	0 0 0 0 0 0 —
c-A.Huff ph	1 0 0 0 0 0 .200
Arias 3b	0 0 0 0 0 0 .000
Totals	38 8 14 7 5 6
St. Louis	000 000 000-0 7 2

AHL	
Wednesday's results	
Portland at St. John's	
Connecticut at Albany	
Milwaukee at Texas	
Tuesday's results	
St. John's 8 Portland 7 (OT)	
Rochester 3 Hamilton 1	
Oklahoma City 4 Lake Erie 3	
Thursday's game	
All Times Eastern	
San Antonio at Rockford, 8:05 p.m.	

NBA PRESEASON	
Wednesday's results	
New York vs. Brooklyn at Uniondale, NY, 7:30 p.m.	
Orlando at Memphis, 8 p.m.	
Houston at New Orleans, 8 p.m.	
Dallas vs. Oklahoma City at Wichita, KS, 8 p.m.	
Detroit vs. Minnesota at Winnipeg, Manitoba, 8 p.m.	
Washington vs. Miami at Kansas City, MO, 8:30 p.m.	
L.A. Lakers at L.A. Clippers, 10:30 p.m.	
Tuesday's results	
Indiana 100 Cleveland 82	
Chicago 94 Oklahoma City 89	
Golden State 107 Phoenix 92	
At Raleigh, NC	
Miami 98 Charlotte 92	

(Sanchez 4-6), 8:07 p.m.

Sunday, Oct. 28

San Francisco (Cain 16-5) at Detroit (Scherzer 16-7), 8:15 p.m.

Monday, Oct. 29

x-San Francisco at Detroit, 8:07 p.m.

Wednesday, Oct. 31

x-Detroit at San Francisco, 8:07 p.m.

Thursday, Nov. 1

x-Detroit at San Francisco, 8:07 p.m.

x — If necessary.

San Francisco	115	000	11X-9	14	0			
a-lined out for Mujica in the 5th. b-struck out for Rosenthal in the 7th. c-grounded into a double play for Affeldt in the 7th. d-struck out for Descalso in the 8th.								
E—Jay (1), Kozma (2). LOB—St. Louis 12, San Francisco 10. 2B—Sandoval (2), Pence (1). HR—Belt (1), off Motte. RBIs—Pagan (2), Sandoval (6), Pence 2 (3), Belt (2), B.Crawford (5), M.Cain (1). SB—Beltran (2), Descalso (1). Runners left in scoring position—St. Louis 9 (Craig 2, Lohse 2, Descalso, T.Cruz 2, Holliday 2); San Francisco 4 (Pence, Sandoval 2, Belt). RISP—St. Louis 0 for 11; San Francisco 3 for 14. Runners moved up—Beltran, Holliday, Sandoval, B.Crawford. GDP—A.Huff.								
DP—St. Louis 1 (Descalso, Kozma, Craig).								
St. Louis	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Lohse L, 1-1	2	6	5	5	1	1	46	7.04
J.Kelly	⅔	2	2	2	2	1	26	4.50
Mujica	1 ⅓	1	0	0	0	14	0.00	
Rosenthal	2 ⅓	1	0	0	1	4	34	0.00
Boggs	⅔	3	1	1	1	0	22	5.40
Salas	⅔	0	0	0	0	3	3.86	
Motte	1 1 1	1	0	0	14	2.25		
San Francisco	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
M.Cain W, 1-1	5 ⅔	5	0	0	1	41.02	2.19	
Affeldt	1 ⅔	0	0	1	2	18	0.00	
S.Casilla	⅔	2	0	0	0	17	0.00	
Ja.Lopez	1	0	0	2	2	25	0.00	
Romo	⅔	0	0	0	0	4	0.00	
Lohse pitched to 3 batters in the 3rd. Inherited runners—scored—J.Kelly 3-3, Mujica 3-0, Salas 2-0, Affeldt 2-0, Ja.Lopez 2-0, Romo 2-0. HBP—by M.Cain (Holliday). WP—S.Casilla, Romo.								
Umpires—Home, Gary Darling; First, Chris Guccione; Second, Bill Miller; Third, Greg Gibson; Right, Jerry Layne; Left, Ted Barrett.								
T—3:35. A—43,056 (41,915).								

Friday's games

Adirondack at Albany, 7 p.m.

Hershey at Connecticut, 7 p.m.

Charlotte at Grand Rapids, 7 p.m.

Springfield at Providence, 7:05 p.m.

Rochester at Wilkes-Barre/Scranton, 7:05 p.m.

Toronto at Hamilton, 7:30 p.m.

Abbotsford at Lake Erie, 7:30 p.m.

Bridgeport at Worcester, 7:30 p.m.

Houston at Oklahoma City, 8 p.m.

Chicago at Peoria, 8:05 p.m.

Thursday's games

Milwaukee at Charlotte, 11 a.m.

Portland at Utah, 9 p.m.

L.A. Clippers at Denver, 10 p.m.

At San Diego, CA

Sacramento vs. L.A. Lakers, 10 p.m.

Friday's games

Houston at Orlando, 7 p.m.

Indiana vs. Chicago at South Bend, IN, 7 p.m.

Atlanta at Detroit, 7:30 p.m.

Minnesota vs. Milwaukee at Green Bay, WI, 8 p.m.

Toronto at Memphis, 8 p.m.

New Orleans at Miami, 8 p.m.

Charlotte at Dallas, 8:30 p.m.

Washington at San Antonio, 8:30 p.m.

Denver at Phoenix, 10:30 p.m.

SOCCER

MLS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

	GP	W	L	T	GF	GA	Pt
y-Kansas City	33	17	7	9	40	26	60
x-D.C. United	33	17	10	6	52	42	57
x-Chicago	33	17	11	5	45	40	56
x-New York	33	15	9	9	54	46	54
x-Houston	33	14	8	11	48	39	53
Columbus	33	14	12	7	42	43	49
Montreal	33	12	15	6	45	50	42
Philadelphia	32	10	16	6	36	40	36
New England	33	8	17	8	38	44	32
Toronto	33	5	20	8	35	60	23

WESTERN CONFERENCE

	GP	W	L	T	GF	GA	Pt
y-San Jose	33	19	6	8	71	42	65
x-Seattle	33	15	7	11	51	32	56
x-Real Salt Lake	33	17	11	5	46	35	56
x-Los Angeles	33	15	12	6	58	47	51
x-Vancouver	33	11	13	9	35	41	42
Dallas	33	9	13	11	40	45	38
Colorado	33	10	19	4	42	50	34
Portland	33	8	16	9	33	55	33
Chivas USA	33	7	18	8	22	56	29

x — Clinched playoff berth.

y — Clinched conference.

Note: Three points for a win, one for a tie.

Wednesday's result

Philadelphia at Kansas City

ENGLISH

LEAGUE CHAMPIOSHIP

Wednesday's result

Blackburn Rovers 1, Sheffield Wednesday 0

CONCACAF

CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

FIRST ROUND

Group One

Santos Laguna (Mexico) vs. Toronto (Canada)

Group Six

Tigres (Mexico) vs. Alajuelense (Costa Rica)

UEFA

CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

FIRST ROUND

Group A

Dinamo Zagreb (Croatia) 0, Paris Saint-Germain (France) 2

Porto (Portugal) 3, Dynamo Kiev (Ukraine) 2

Group B

Arsenal (England) 0, Schalke (Germany) 2

Montpellier (France) 1, Olympiakos (Greece) 2

Group C

Zenit St. Petersburg (Russia) 1, Anderlecht (Belgium) 0

Malaga (Spain) 1, AC Milan (Italy) 0

Group D

Ajax (Netherlands) 3, Manchester City (England) 1

Borussia Dortmund (Germany) 2, Real Madrid (Spain) 1

CFL

WEEK 18

EAST DIVISION

	GP	W	L	T	PF	PA	Pt
y-Montreal	16	10	6	0	440	445	20
Toronto	16	7	9	0	371	425	14
Winnipeg	16	5	11	0	339	492	10
Hamilton	16	5	11	0	470	515	10

WEST DIVISION

	GP	W	L	T	PF	PA	Pt
y-B.C.	16	12	4	0	441	307	24
x-Calgary	16	10	6	0	464	382	20
x-Saskatchewan	16	8	8	0	425	361	16
Edmonton	16	7	9	0	370	393	14

x — Clinched playoff berth.

y — Clinched division.

Friday's game — All Times Eastern

B.C. at Calgary, 9 p.m.

Saturday's games

Winnipeg at Hamilton, 1 p.m.

Toronto at Saskatchewan, 4 p.m.

Sunday, Oct. 28

Edmonton at Montreal, 1 p.m.

TENNIS

ATP VALENCIA OPEN

At Valencia, Spain

Wednesday's results

Singles — First Round

Gilles Muller, Luxembourg, def. Milos Raonic (8), Thornhill, Ont., 7-5, 7-6 (1).

Marcel Granollers, Spain, def. Jan Hajek, Czech Republic, 7-5, 6-4.

Second Round

David Goffin, Belgium, def. John Isner (5), United States, 7-6 (2), 4-6, 6-4.

Marin Cilic (7), Croatia, def. Fernando Verdasco, Spain, 6-1, 6-4.

Ivan Dodig, Croatia, def. Lleyton Hewitt, Australia, 6-1, 3-6, 6-2.

ATP WORLD TOUR SWISS INDOORS

At Basel, Switzerland

Singles — First Round

Benoit Paire, France, def. Andreas Seppi (5), Italy, 4-6, 6-2, 6-3.

Paul-Henri Mathieu, France, def. Henri Laaksonen, Switzerland, 6-2, 7-5.

Marinko Matosevic, Australia, def. Florian Mayer (7), Germany, 6-2, 6-3.

Juan Martin del Potro (2), Argentina, def. Alejandro Falla, Colombia, 6-4, 6-1.

Second Round

Grigor Dimitrov, Bulgaria, def. Julien Benneteau, France, 7-6 (5), 6-7 (1), 7-6 (3).

Roger Federer (1), Switzerland, def. Thomaz Bellucci, Brazil, 6-3, 6-7 (6), 7-5.

Richard Gasquet (3), France, def. Marco Chiudinelli, Switzerland, 6-1, 6-4.

TEB BNP PARIBAS WTA CHAMPIONSHIPS

At Istanbul

Round Robin — Singles

Group A

Serena Williams (3), United States, def. Li Na (8), China, 7-6 (2), 6-3.

Victoria Azarenka (1), Belarus, def. Angelique Kerber (5), Germany, 6-7 (11), 7-6 (2), 6-4.

Standings: Williams 2-0 (sets 4-0); Azarenka 1-0 (2-1); Li 0-1 (0-2); Kerber 0-2 (1-4).

Group B

Maria Sharapova (2), Russia, def. Agnieszka Radwanska (4), Poland, 5-7, 7-5, 7-5.

Standings: Sharapova 2-0 (4-1); Radwanska 1-1 (3-2); Sara Errani 0-1 (0-2); w-Petra Kvitova 0-1 (0-2); a-Sam Stosur 0-0 (0-0).

NFL

AMERICAN CONFERENCE

EAST

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
New England	4	3	0	.571	217	163
Miami	3	3	0	.500	120	117
N.Y. Jets	3	4	0	.429	159	170
Buffalo	3	4	0	.429	171	227

SOUTH

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Houston	6	1	0	.857	216	128
Indianapolis	3	3	0	.500	117	158
Tennessee	3	4	0	.429	149	238
Jacksonville	1	5	0	.167	88	164

Horoscopes

Aries

March 21 - April 20

You will go out of your way to prove you have what it takes, but don't go too far and do something that lands you in a lot of trouble. By all means, be adventurous but keep things in perspective too.

Taurus

April 21 - May 21

You may be tempted to take some kind of risk but the Sun linked to Saturn in your opposite sign warns that's not such a good idea. Try to think through the consequences of your actions before you take them.

Gemini

May 22 - June 21

No matter how eager you may be to change your life for the better, you still need to invest a bit more time thinking things through. Your plans may never be watertight but they can be more realistic.

Cancer

June 22 - July 23

Your confidence is back and everyone is praising you to the skies. That is all very nice but you should be aware that some of those people don't really want to see you succeed. You know who they are.

Leo

July 24 - Aug. 23

It might be tempting to get involved in a dispute of some kind but if you are smart, you will keep your distance. Nothing you do or say will change the situation one little bit, so leave well alone.

Virgo

Aug. 24 - Sept. 23

If you allow other people to speak on your behalf, you will probably regret it. Either speak for yourself or keep your thoughts secret. In general, the less others know about your plans and ambitions, the better.

Libra

Sept. 24 - Oct. 23

The Sun close to Saturn in the money area of your chart warns you need to be realistic about your cash flow situation. Don't spend it if you haven't got it — and, if you have got it, save it for later.

Scorpio

Oct. 24 - Nov. 22

You may think that nothing can harm you, that fortune favours you because you are bold. To an extent that is true, but don't get silly about it. Even Scorpios are human. Even Scorpios bleed. Be careful.

Sagittarius

Nov. 23 - Dec. 21

To resolve a long running problem, you may need to team up with someone who knows more about a specific area than you do. You can make use of their knowledge and they can make use of your energy.

Capricorn

Dec. 22 - Jan. 20

Everything has its place and purpose. It is simply not true that we live in a meaningless universe. You may be a down to earth sort by nature but today you will want to dig deeper into life's mysteries.

Aquarius

Jan. 21 - Feb. 19

Try not to take anything for granted today. And try not to let your fantasies take over your mind. Wishful thinking can be fun but it can also be dangerous. Reach for the stars but don't lose touch with reality.

Pisces

Feb. 20 - March 20

There is no point trying to force yourself to do something you don't enjoy because you won't do a good job at it. Either you give it one hundred per cent or you don't do it at all. What will it be? SALLY BROMPTON

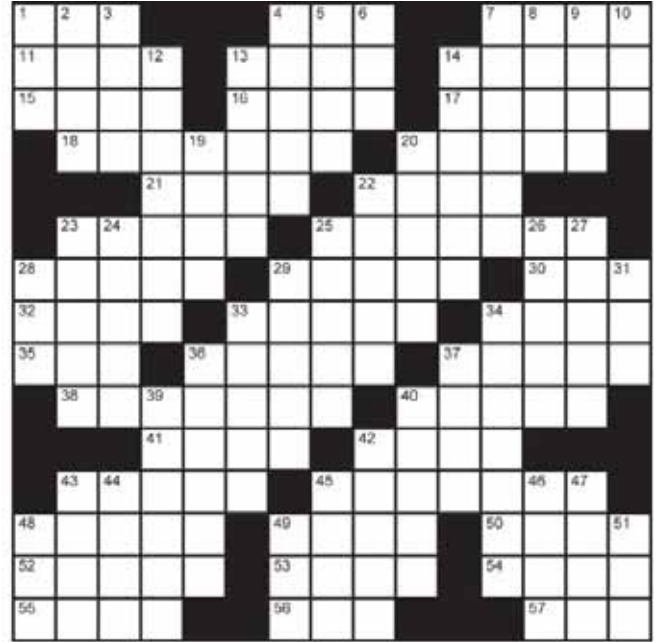
This Puzzle Has No Title

Across

- Occupied a chair
- Astroturf rival
- Desire
- Biggest problems of some celebrities
- Identical
- Québec peninsula along the south shore of the Saint Lawrence River
- Winnie-the-___
- "Sad to say ..."
- "On the ___ hand ...": "Here's a different idea ..."
- BC's ___ National Park, in the Rockies near Revelstoke
- Headquartered
- A whole bunch
- Jaguar or Mustang
- ___-et-un: blackjack (from French for "21")
- Side with the football
- Assistants
- Irritate by rubbing
- A cheer
- Member of a landscaping team who digs up weeds
- Like nonvegetarian spaghetti sauces
- Apple eater's throw-away
- ___ mode: with ice cream (2 wds.)
- Bookstore shelving category
- "___ Lane": Beatles song
- "Wild Rose Country" province
- Infraction fees
- Cabin material
- Transmitted
- Black playing card
- Canada's most populous province
- Cognizant of one's surroundings
- ___-Ball: old arcade game
- Makes a mistake
- Challenges
- Bauxite and galena
- Insecticide ingredient
- Adds color to
- Place for a drink
- Asian sauce type

Down

- End-of-summer mo.
- All ___: excited
- Chisel or hammer
- After-Christmas store events
- Rubāiyāt poet Khayyam, actor Sharif, or House actor Epps
- ___ Moines, Iowa
- Doctor who's Sherlock Holmes's sidekick
- "How ___ Doc?": "What's his prognosis?" (2 wds.)
- Exceeded the posted limit
- That girl
- Montréal-born Star Trek star William
- Blessed one
- Colonel Sanders, Mitch Miller, or the Devil's beard type
- Gear teeth
- Saskatchewan-born folk singer Sainte-Marie
- ___ worse than death:
- dire outcome (2 wds.)
- String quartet member
- Worthy aim
- Scarlett ___ of *Gone With the Wind*
- Witch
- Brings in, as a salary
- "Gotcha!"
- Change for a nickel
- "Pay attention!"
- Become one company
- Moved to the middle
- Hollow, crystal-lined stones
- ___ colada: rum cocktail
- Plays at maximum volume
- Big celebrations
- Villainous expression
- Bend with the breeze
- Peel
- Southern US stew ingredient
- Angers
- Sandwich cookie
- Also say
- Bawl
- Pig pen



BY MICHAEL WIESENBERG

Yesterday's Crossword



What's online

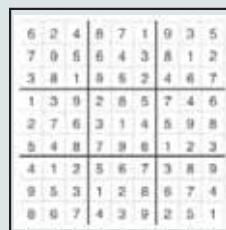
See today's answers at metronews.ca/answers.

Sudoku

How to play

Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

Yesterday's Sudoku



Today 18°/12° Variable
Friday 21°/4° Variable
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